A 56 year male patient who underwent CABG with left carotid endarterectomy six months ago presented to us with complaints of pulsatile swelling in left side of neck postoperatively which was progressively increasing in size. Patient was advised to undergo a carotid Doppler study which revealed a large saccular aneurysm of distal common carotid artery and carotid bulb. The aneurysm was layered with a large thrombus (Figure 1). The internal and external carotid artery were seen arising from the aneurysm (Figure 2). He was admitted for resection of the aneurysm with arterial reconstruction.

Therefore, such aneurysms can be caused by atherosclerosis, trauma, previous carotid surgery, tuberculosis and fibromuscular dysplasia. They can cause compression, stroke, transient ischaemic attacks or can rupture. Such extracranial aneurysms have high incidence of unfavourable neurological sequelae because of varied aetiology, location and extension and so different vascular procedures like aneurysmectomy with end to end anastomosis, aneurysmectomy with vein graft insertion, dacron graft, endovascular stenting have to be used. In all the procedures aneurysmectomy with arterial reconstruction is necessary.1,2

References