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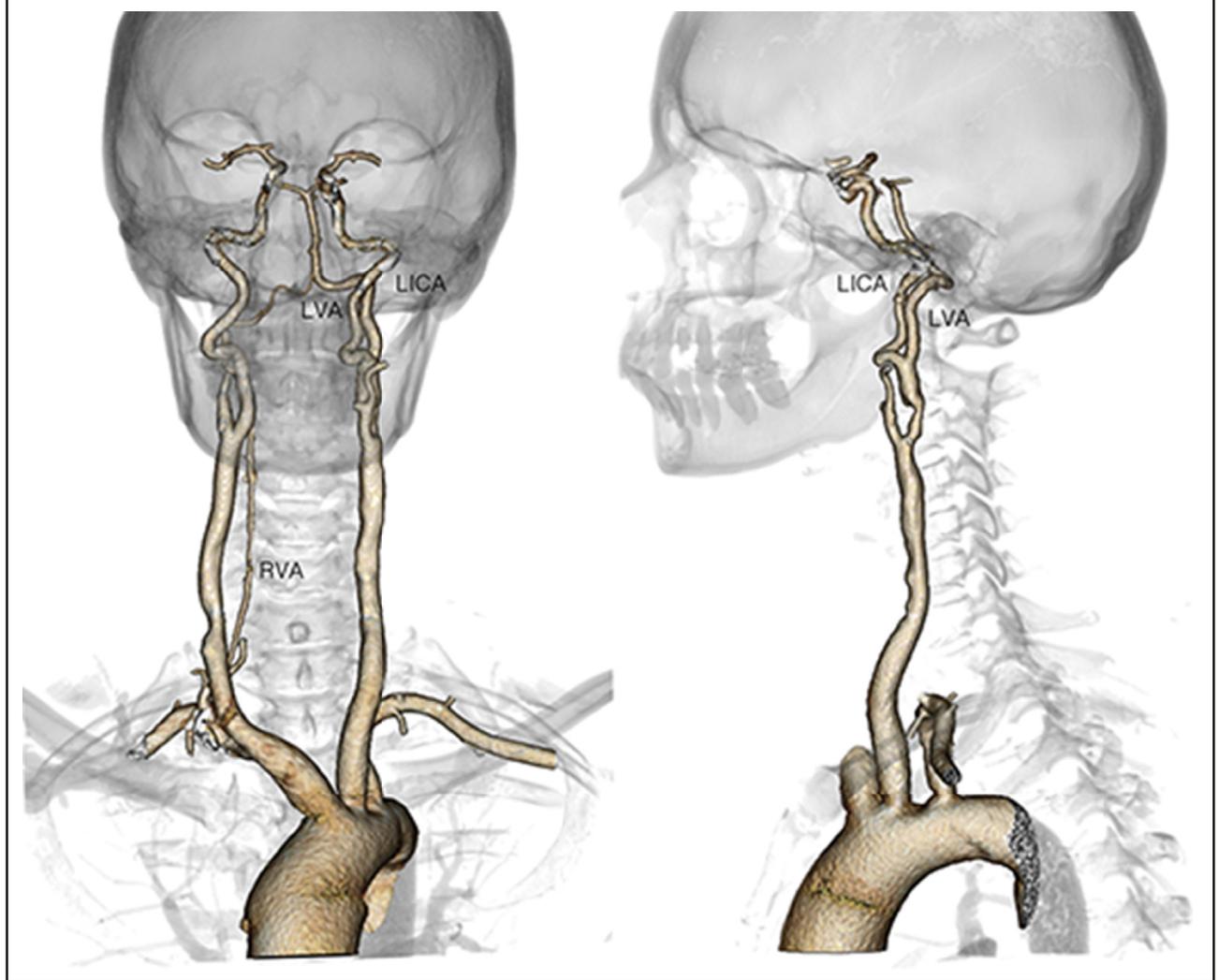
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## COUP D'OEIL

# Atypical Carotid Origin of the Vertebral Artery

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A 52 year old hypertensive woman (a smoker with systemic lupus erythematosus) was diagnosed with left internal carotid artery (ICA) stenosis after a transient ischaemic attack. Computed tomography angiography revealed an atypical origin of the left vertebral artery (VA) directly from the extracranial portion of the ICA and the course of the left VA that passed postero-medially to join the right VA to form the basilar artery. Anatomical variants of the VA origin are frequent (5%) but its origin from the ICA is quite rare. Successful standard left carotid endarterectomy with patch closure was performed without the need for a shunt.

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