A 51 year-old woman was found confused while crawling across a field. She had marked facial cyanosis and edema with cutaneous petechiae, subconjunctival hemorrhages, and echymosis across her anterior neck (image 1). Mild cerebral edema and a non-displaced thyroid cartilage fracture were found on computed tomography (CT). The patient recovered full neuro-cognitive function within 24 hours and reported that she had been assaulted and choked by the throat. Her airway remained stable and the laryngeal injury was treated conservatively; she was discharged home after three days.

Olivier described this syndrome over 150 years ago after thoraco-abdominal crush injuries. It is essentially a prolonged valsala maneuver that results in increased venous pressure and stasis above the level of the compressive force.\(^1\,^2\) The consequent findings on the chest, neck and face are startling but of no prognostic significance, and the majority of patients have a favorable outcome.\(^2\,^3\)

**REFERENCES**