

Clinical Image

A Challenging Case of Lingual Tumor

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Received: June 02, 2020; Accepted: July 02, 2020;

Published: July 09, 2020

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A 57-year-old female was referred by the dentist to the Department of Oral Pathology and Surgery for an asymptomatic tumor on the tongue (Figure 1). Of interest in this case was the location of the lesion, which was situated just anterior to the foramen caecum in the midline.

The clinical differential diagnosis included a wide range of entities:

- Developmental tumors (ectopic lingual thyroid gland, choristoma)
- Traumatic, inflammatory (foreign body reaction)
- Reactive (fibroepithelial hyperplasia)
- Neoplastic (neural or other tumors)



Figure 1:

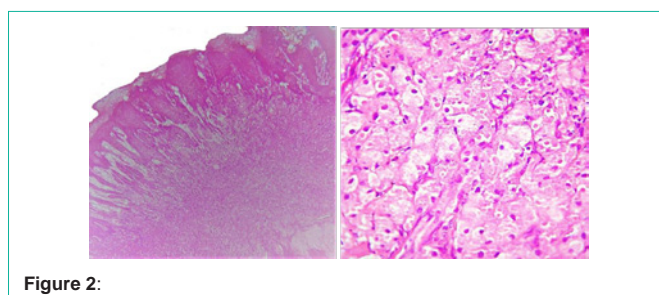


Figure 2:

Diagnostic approach comprised initially a neck ultrasound investigation, and serum TSH, T4, T3 evaluation. The values of the thyroid hormones were within normal range; no anatomical abnormality or other pathology of the thyroid gland was evident, and no mass or nodule was detected in the neck. After an excisional biopsy of the lesion (Figure 1), the histopathological diagnosis was granular cell tumor exhibiting accumulation of granular cells and intense pseudoepithelial hyperplasia (Figure 2).