Final Acceptance

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Dear Dr. Al Qahtani,

Your manuscript entitled: Schwannoma Of The Tongue: Case Report and Differential Diagnosis has been accepted for publication. It will appear in Vol.17 No.1 of the journal (January 2015).

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Kamal J. Daghistani  
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Schwannoma Of The Tongue: Case Report and Differential Diagnosis

Abstract
Schwannoma (or neurilemmoma) of the tongue is an unusual clinical entity, mostly seen in the fourth decade of life. It is relatively a rare benign tumor of the head and neck. It is usually single, encapsulated originating from any nerve covered with a Schwann cell sheath. This is a report of such case in a Saudi child, and believed to be the first reported in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Keywords: Schwannoma, Neurilemmoma, Lingual, Tongue

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Conflict of interest: None.

Introduction
Schwannoma of the tongue is an unusual clinical entity and a relatively rare tumor of the head and neck. This is a report of such case which is believed to be the first Saudi child reported from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Case History
A 9-year-old Saudi female child presented to the ENT clinic with the complaint of a slowly enlarging painless mass on the back of the tongue over the previous two years. There was no history of nausea or vomiting, dysphagia or debility. There was also no history of bleeding, dyspnea and no change in her voice. On examination, a midline submucosal mass measuring 1.5cm in diameter and 0.6cm in height was identified at the junction of the anterior two thirds and posterior third of the tongue (Fig. 1).

There were no palpable cervical lymph nodes. Ultrasound examination of the neck showed the presence of intact thyroid gland. Thyroid function test was normal. Under general anesthesia the mass was excised and sent for pathological examination which proved to be a Schwannoma (Fig. 2 & 3). Postoperative recovery was uneventful, and there was no recurrence after a three-year follow-up period.

Discussion
Schwannoma (also known as neurilemmoma, neurinoma, or perineural fibroblastoma) is a slow-growing benign tumor which may arise from any nerve covered with a Schwann cell sheath. When present in the oral cavity, it is the tongue which is the most frequently involved (1). With no known etiology, a Schwannoma is usually firm and painless, and encapsulated solitary lesion of variable size (2). Histologically, a schwannoma may appear in one of two patterns: the first, known as Antoni type A, made of packed Schwann cells forming bundles or rows with palisading, elongated nuclei. The second type, Antoni type B formed of loose Schwann cells in a meshwork of reticular fibers and microcysts (3).

The clinical differential diagnosis includes swellings due to lingual thyroid. In this described case ultrasonography of the neck showed the presence of fully developed thyroid gland in its anatomical site. Other differential diagnosis could be with any other benign tumoral lesions such as fibroma, lipoma, neurofibroma, or salivary glands tumor.

Conclusion
Schwannoma of tongue is a rare benign tumor. Accurate diagnosis is important to avoid subjecting patient to unnecessary hypothyroidism and complete local excision in symptomatic patient proved to be curative with no recurrence.

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Fig. 1 Midline submucosal mass measuring 1.5cm in diameter and 0.6cm in height at the junction of the anterior two thirds and posterior third of the tongue.

Fig. 2: Schwannoma of the tongue: Encapsulated mesenchymal tumor (H&E, x10). Arrow points to capsule.

Fig. 3: The mass consists of two distinct areas, the Antony type A (large asterisk) and the Antoni type B (small asterisks). They consist of dense and packed cells, and less cellular area, respectively.

References