

IMAGES IN THORAX

Epiglottic cyst: rare, but potentially dangerous

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A 34-year-old woman presented with a foreign body feeling and slight sore throat without dysphagia or dyspnoea. The symptoms had occurred a week earlier. About 2 years earlier, she had similar symptoms, which resolved spontaneously. Examination showed a round mass located on the midline just behind the base of the tongue (figure 1A). Indirect laryngoscopy and CT scan confirmed the mass to be implanted on the tip of the epiglottis (figure 1B) and to be a super-infected cyst. Full resection improved all symptoms without recurrence for the past 5 years.

Cysts of the vallecula (space between the base of the tongue and epiglottis) are frequent, often asymptomatic and mostly do not require particular treatment. In contrast, epiglottic cysts harvest a bigger risk of impairing the airways, particularly when they are infected, and removal is advised.¹

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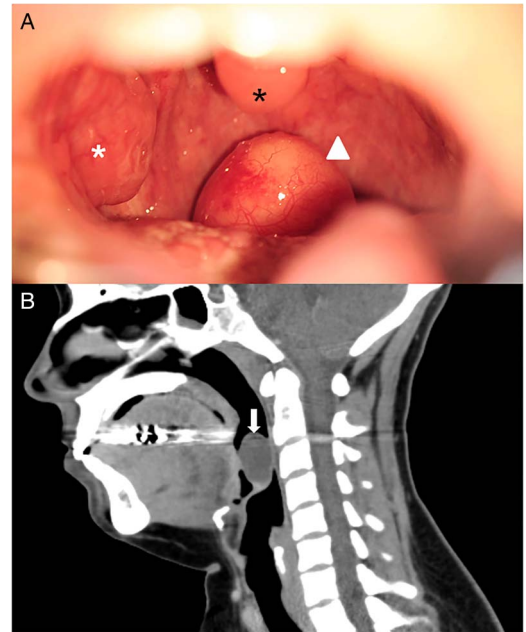


Figure 1 (A) Transoral view showing an unusual oropharyngeal mass in the midline, depicted by the white triangle. The black star indicates the uvula and the white star the right tonsil. (B) Sagittal computed scan of the upper airways showing the hypodense mass attached on the tip of the epiglottis (white arrow).