

Abstract

- **Thyro-glossal duct cyst (TGDC)** is the **most common** congenital **midline** neck masses. **Rare** cases were reported in **adults**. The risk of **malignant transformation** increases with age. The diagnosis is based on clinical features and imaging. The confirmation is histological after surgery based on **Sistrunck's** technic.
- **We report a case** of thyro-glossal tract cyst in an 80-year-old patient.

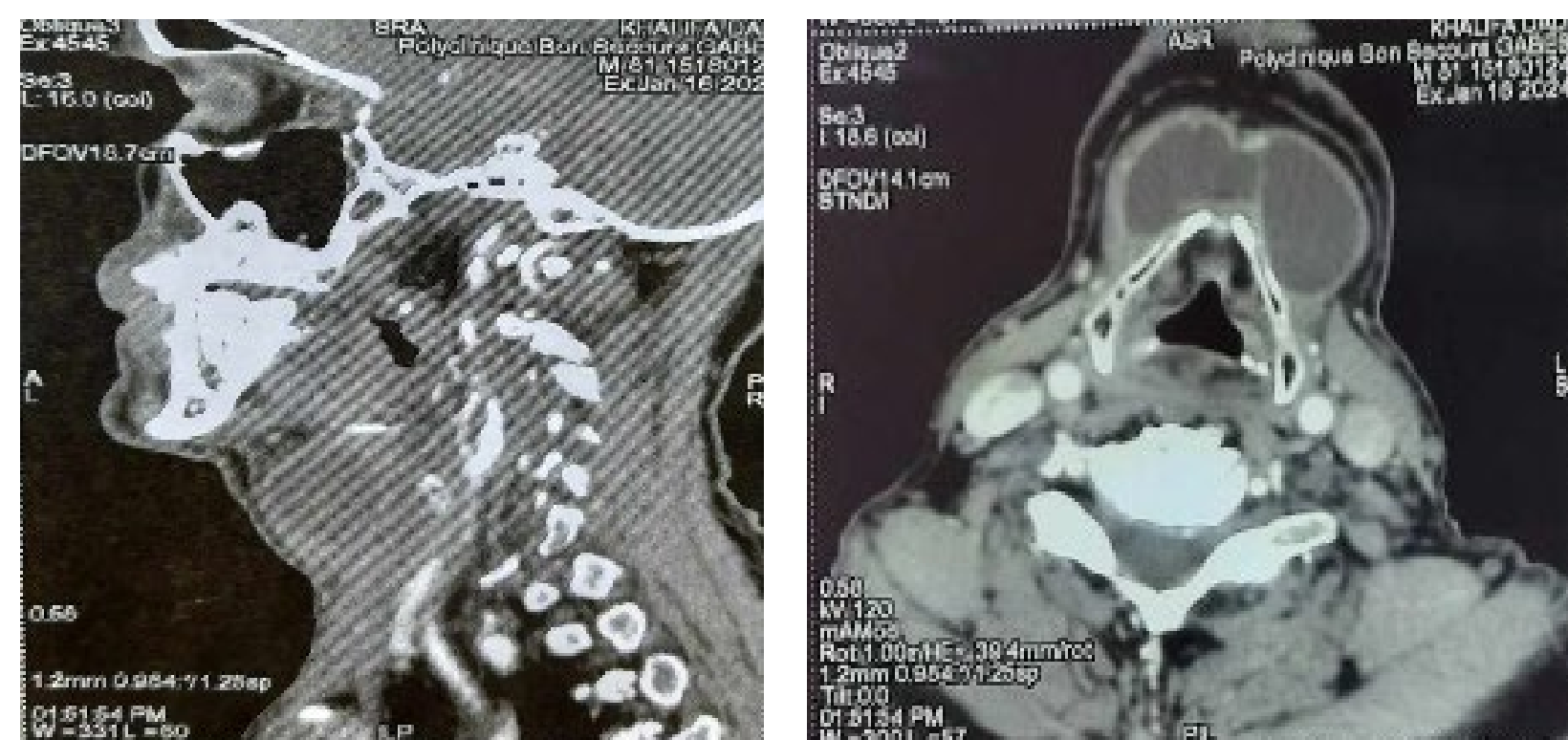


Figure 1: CT Scan findings.

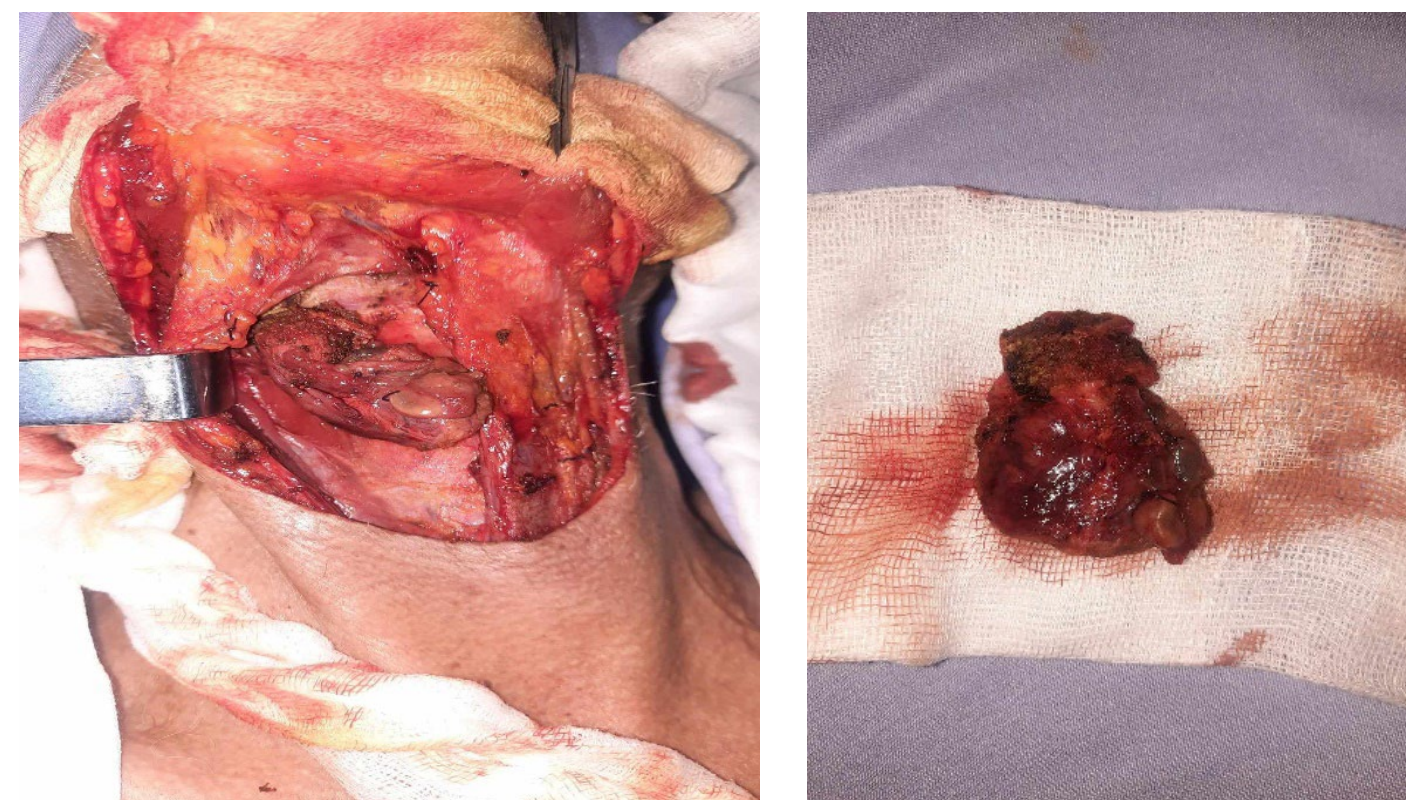


Figure 2: Surgical excision.

Results

- Our patient was aged **80 years**. He had a history of hypertension.
- He presented to our clinic with an **isolated anterior basi-cervical swelling** that had been evolving for 1 month, without any notion of surinfection or signs of compression.
- **Examination** revealed a **4cm median and anterior basi-cervical swelling**, mobile on swallowing and tongue protrusion, with a soft, well-limited consistency, and a healthy overlying skin.
- **Cervical ultra-sonography** showed a deep sub-hyoid median well defined cystic mass with a septate appearance and echogenic echo-structure, above the thyroid cartilage measuring 53mm, suggestive of a TGDC.
- **A CT scan** of the larynx was performed. It revealed a deep anterior cervical sub-hyoid cystic mass measuring 45mm*34*52mm, well defined and finely septated, pushing forward the hyosternal muscles (Figure 1).
- The patient **was operated (Figure 2)**. The histological examination showed a remodeled TGDC **with no signs of malignancy**. The postoperative course were simple.

Objective

- **The aim of our work** was to **describe** the clinical and evolutionary particularities of thyro-glossal duct cysts (TDC) in elderly subjects, particularly in terms of **risk of malignancy**, and their therapeutic management.

Methods

- **We report** a case of thyro-glossal tract cyst in an 80-year-old patient.

Conclusions

- Thyro-glossal duct cysts remains a **rare tumor in adults** but may **reveal a cancer**. Imaging and histopathology are crucial for its management. However, surgery according to **Sistrunk** technic remains the reference surgical procedure in simple forms of these cysts.

Discussion

- TGDC arises from the **embryological remnant** of the thyro-glossal duct.
- The **risk of malignant transformation** increases with age.
- It is **rare in adults** : some case reports in the literature.
- It presents as a **slow-growing midline** neck mass.
- Movement of this mass during protrusion of the tongue is a pathognomonic sign.
- Its **long-standing and rapid growth** can indicate a malignant transformation.
- When diagnosed, surgery based on **Sistrunk's** technic is indicated. **Total thyroidectomy and bilateral lymph node dissection** are associated since the malignancy is confirmed.

Références

Choi YM, Kim TY, Song DE, Hong SJ, Jang EK, Jeon MJ, Han JM, Kim WG, Shong YK, Kim WB. Papillary thyroid carcinoma arising from a thyroglossal duct cyst: a single institution experience. Endocr J. 2013;60(5):665-70. doi: 10.1507/endocrj.12-0366. Epub 2013 Jan 12. PMID: 23318645.