

“What does this lump mean?”

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Chris, 52, presented with a mass on the right side of his neck which had been growing for the last two months (Figure 1). He has significant alcohol and smoking history, but otherwise has no significant past medical history. Family history is negative for malignancy. His father had Type 2 diabetes.

Chris has been employed as a sheet metal worker. He denies other drug use or exposure and has no known allergies.

Table 1 summarizes the patient's examination results.



Figure 1. Large mass on patient's neck (right side).

What's your diagnosis?

- a) Lipoma
- b) Lymphadenoma
- c) Squamous cell carcinoma (metastasis)
- d) Mixed tumour of the parotid gland

Answer on page 46

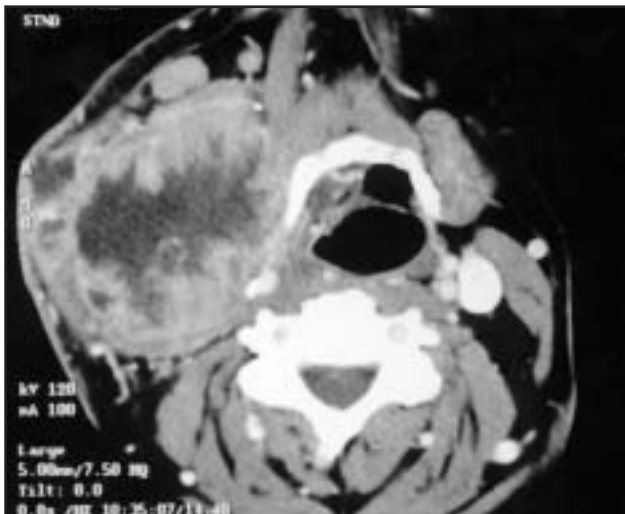


Figure 2. CT scan of the neck.

Table 1 Examination results

Intraoral exam

- Poor dentition
- No evidence of the primary tumour
- Some oropharyngeal erythema
- Normal tongue movements

Right neck

- Large mass which appeared fixed, extending from the pinna of the ear anteriorly into the mid-neck area
- The overlying skin is erythematous
- No other palpable nodes

Chest

- Clear to percussion and auscultation

