
IMAGES IN OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY

Giant Warthin Tumour

Tumor de Warthin gigante

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We report the case of a Warthin’s tumour of 15 years’ evolution, which reached a size of 11.5×6.9×4.8 cm. After a literature review, we found only one reported case of a Warthin’s tumour greater than 10 cm in diameter.

Our patient was a 72-year-old male who was referred to the Outpatient Service due to a right, parotid tumour of 15 years’ evolution, asymptomatic with progression. Examination revealed a large tumour in the right parotid region, with cystic consistency in the upper half and solid consistency in the lower half (Fig. 1). It was not adhered to the skin or deep layers. The patient did not present motor or sensory alterations due to facial nerve involvement. The intraoral examination was completely normal and the presence of pathological lymphadenopathy at the cervical level was ruled out. The study was completed with MRI (Fig. 2). The patient underwent surgery due to suspicion of parotid Warthin’s tumour. We carried out a total parotidectomy, conserving the facial nerve (Fig. 3). The definitive histological diagnosis was lymphomatous papillary cystadenoma (Warthin’s tumour).

Warthin’s tumour is a well-defined, benign, salivary gland neoplasm. It is mainly located in the parotid gland in men between 50 and 60 years of age and it appears as a painless mass of slow growth. In cases of lengthy evolution, it can reach a considerable size, with malignant transformation being exceptional. The indication for surgery, although subject to debate, seems reinforced in cases with a long evolution, such as the one presented.

Figure 1 Giant parotid tumour after 15 years’ evolution.

Figure 2 Coronal MRI showing the upper cystic content compared with the lower solid content.


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Figure 3  Surgical specimen.