

Unusual Presentation of Diffuse B-cell Lymphoma as a Large Isolated Epiglottic Mass

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Background & objectives

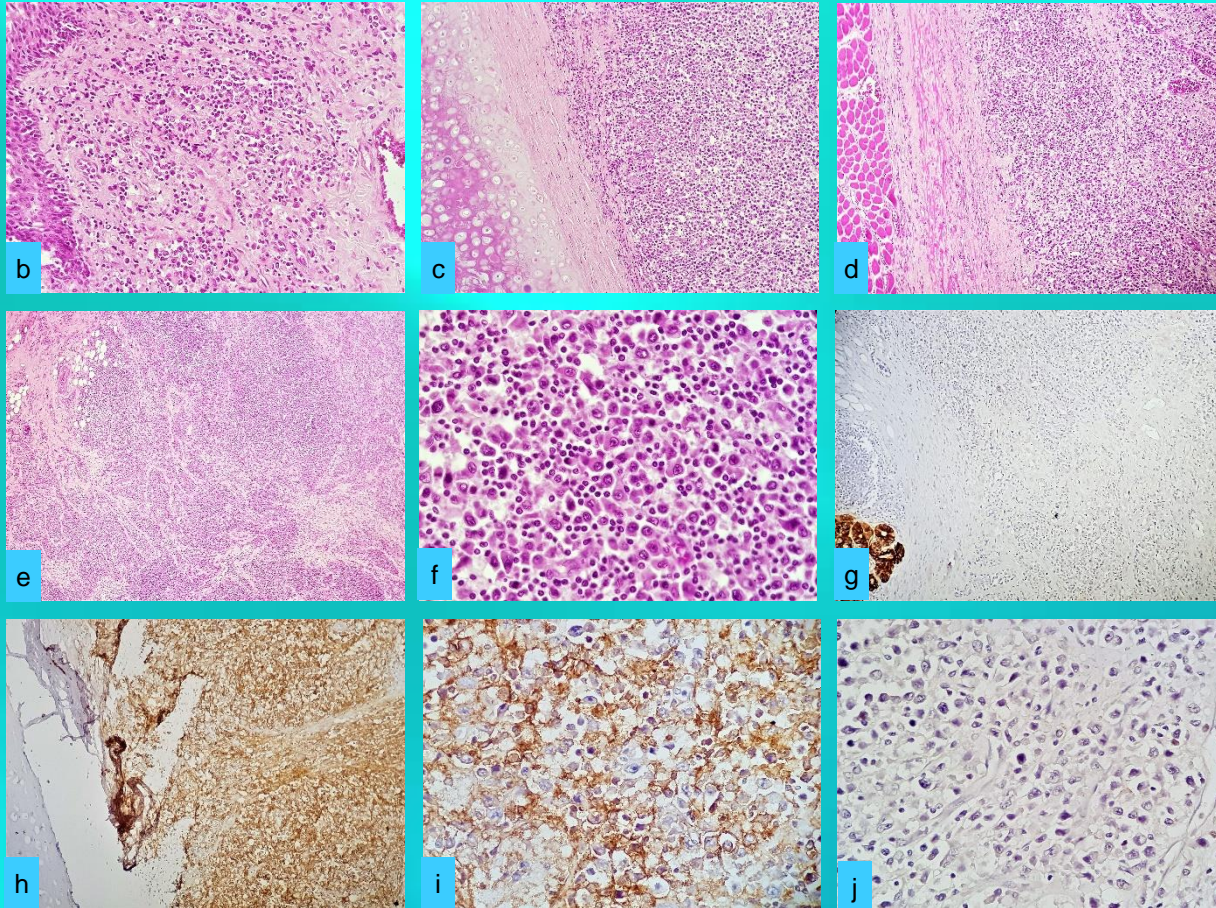
Primary extranodal head and neck lymphomas are the second most frequent, accounting for 2.5% of all lymphoma cases. Presentation in the larynx or hypopharynx is rare (1% of all laryngeal tumours) and primary epiglottic B-cell lymphoma is even less common.

Methods

We present the case of the sudden death of a 76-year-old female. The autopsy performed revealed a large infiltrative mass involving the epiglottis, the base of the tongue and the hypopharynx. The tumour was sampled and fixed in formalin, processed, embedded in paraffin and examined on H&E and ancillary immunohistochemical stains.



a – Macroscopic, posterior aspect of the larynx, epiglottis and base of tongue with tumour; b-f (H&E) – lymphoma infiltrating the epiglottic epithelium (b, 100X), epiglottic cartilage (c, 100X), base of tongue (d, 100X), epiglottic soft tissue (e, 40X); cell detail (f, 400X); g – AE1/AE3 negative, 100X; h – CD20 positive, 100X; i – CD20 positive, 400X; j – CD3 negative, 200X.



Results

At grossing the tumour had ill-defined margins, forming a large mass in the epiglottis, infiltrating the base of the tongue and the hypopharynx, whitish-grey colour and firm to hard consistency.

Microscopic examination showed a diffuse proliferation of medium-large, discohesive cells, with marked cytologic and nuclear pleomorphism, large nuclei, with prominent nucleoli, brisk mitotic activity and extensive necrosis, surrounded by a fibrotic stroma, invading the full thickness of the epiglottis, with ulceration of the epithelium and lymphovascular invasion. The tumour was AE1/AE3, CD3 and CD5 negative, with few scattered small reactive lymphocytes, and CD20 showed strong and diffuse positivity.

Conclusion

Extranodal non-Hodgkin, diffuse B-cell lymphomas limited to the larynx are rare, accounting for less than 1% of all laryngeal neoplasms. Despite being a part of the supraglottis, the epiglottis is rarely reported as the primary site of laryngeal lymphoma and it is even more uncommon to have a primary presentation of sudden death by tumour obstruction of the airways.

References

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The authors of this poster declare to have no conflict of interest to disclose.

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