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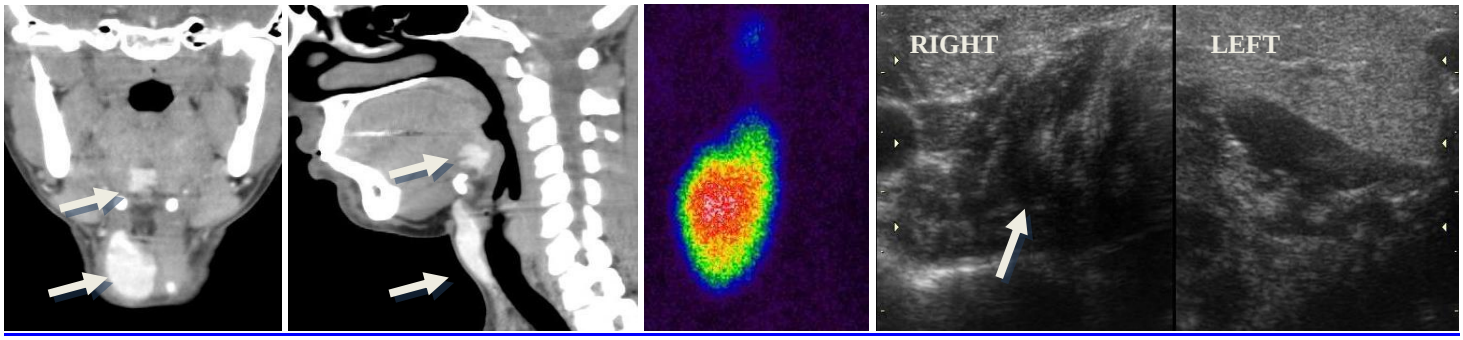
INTERESTING CASE PRESENTATION: THYROID HEMIAGENESIS WITH ECTOPIC LINGUAL THYROID



CLINICAL PRESENTATION: A teenage female presented to Dr. Motlagh with a right-sided neck mass. Physical exam revealed a right-sided focal palpable abnormality. Therefore, the patient was referred to Advanced Imaging Center in Lancaster for a CT scan of the neck. The patient reported no history of surgery.

IMAGING FINDINGS: CT images in the top left demonstrate areas of high attenuation within the region of the thyroid bed consistent with a right thyroid lobe. No such attenuation is seen within the left thyroid bed consistent with absence of the left lobe of the thyroid. A separate focus of high attenuation at the base of the tongue is seen consistent with an ectopic focus of thyroid tissue. Avid post-contrast enhancement of both the prominent right lobe and ectopic lingual focus of thyroid tissue were seen. The nuclear medicine image (middle) corroborates these findings with avid uptake in a pattern consistent with an absent left lobe of thyroid as well as an ectopic lingual focus of thyroid. Ultrasound imaging confirms absent thyroid tissue within the left thyroid bed (right).

DIAGNOSIS: Hemiagenesis of the left lobe of the thyroid with concurrent ectopic lingual thyroid tissue.

DISCUSSION: Several dozen cases of thyroid hemiagenesis have been reported in the literature. Of these, approximately three quarters demonstrate absence of the left lobe. The present lobe is often enlarged, as in this case. As in this patient, females are more often affected. Clinically, the patients are susceptible to the same range of conditions as with normal morphology thyroids including both hyper and hypothyroidism as well as benign and malignant nodules. Even rarer is associated ectopic thyroid development, as in this case, with a lingual focus of thyroid tissue.

TREATMENT: The patient may be prone to hyper- or hypothyroidism. Monitoring of the patient's TSH levels with appropriate treatment is indicated.

Please do not hesitate to call one of us with any questions.

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