

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION ΣΥΝΕΧΙΖΟΜΕΝΗ ΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΣΗ

Oral Medicine Quiz – Case 22

A 40-year-old man was referred to EchoHealth Ultrasound Clinic for neck ultrasound due to recurrent painful swelling of the salivary glands. The patient had been suffered such symptoms a year ago; he had 6 months before a surgical excision of the right submandibular gland; however, symptoms persisted and the patient avoided eating and kept on losing weight. He had been treated with antibiotics for recurrent sialadenitis. Ultrasound (US) revealed in the anatomic region of the right submandibular duct an hyperechoic lesion with acoustic shadow (figures 1, 2). Preoperative computed tomography (CT) confirmed the US diagnosis (fig. 3); a photo of the lesion is also available, after the redo surgical procedure (fig. 4).

Comment

Ultrasound is the first imaging method for assessment of lymph nodes and soft-tissue diseases in the head and neck, including major salivary glands. Ultrasound is a noninvasive method, well-established in cases of clinical suspicion of sialolithiasis, and is used as a primary imaging modality. When sialolithiasis of the submandibular gland

ARCHIVES OF HELLENIC MEDICINE 2016, 33(6):846–847
ΑΡΧΕΙΑ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗΣ ΙΑΤΡΙΚΗΣ 2016, 33(6):846–847

T.N. Spyridopoulos,¹
A. Gounari²

¹EchoHealth Pediatric and Adult
Ultrasound Clinic, Athens
²Department of Otolaryngology, Penteli
Hospital, Palea Penteli, Greece

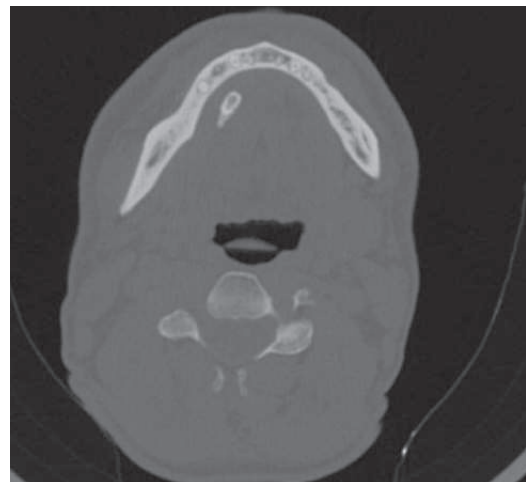
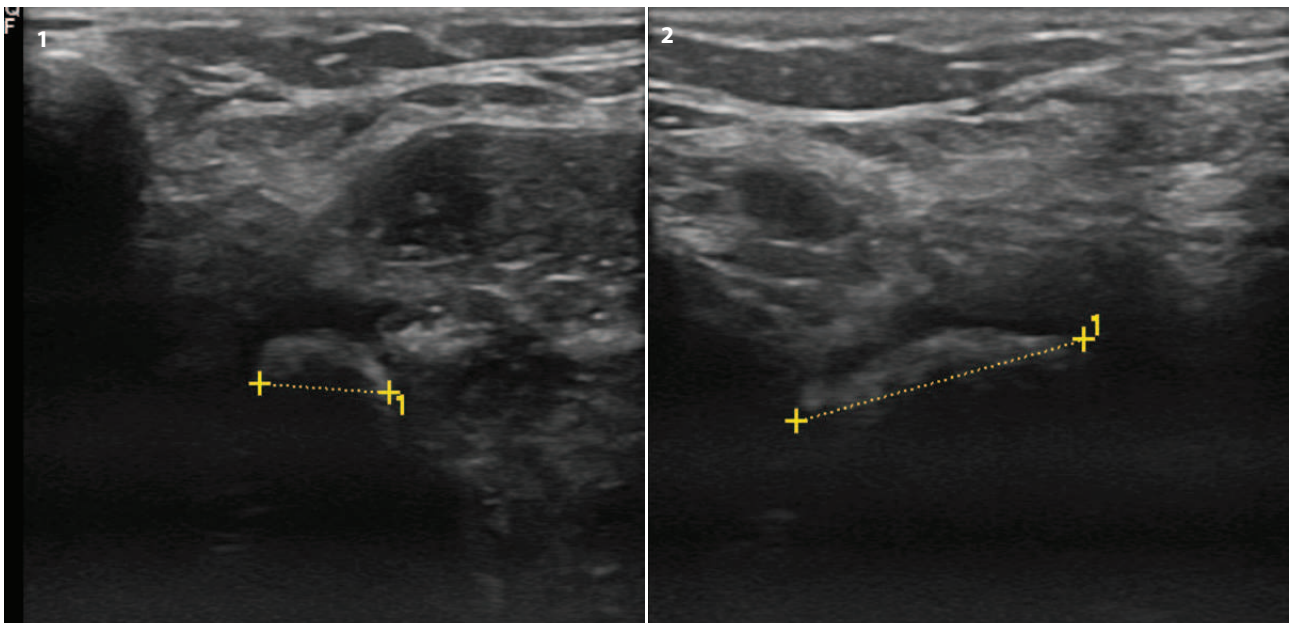


Figure 3. Computed tomography (CT) image (bone window) shows the presence of a sialolith medially to the body of the mandible.



Figures 1, 2. Ultrasound (US) images (axial and perpendicular view) in the anatomic region of the right submandibular triangle. A large sialolith in the anatomic position of proximal part of the submandibular duct, between the body of the mandible and the anterior belly of the digastric muscle, is observed.



Figure 4. A picture of the sialolith after its surgical excision.

is suspected, US may demonstrate if the stone(s) is(are) located in the glandular parenchyma or in the Wharton duct, a distinction

which is essential for choosing the most appropriate method of treatment. Sialoliths are most often located in the submandibular gland and may be multiple.

References

1. BIALEK EJ, JAKUBOWSKI W, ZAJKOWSKI P, SZOPINSKI KT, OSMOLSKI A. US of the major salivary glands: Anatomy and spatial relationships, pathologic conditions, and pitfalls. *Radiographics* 2006, 26:745–763

Corresponding author:

T.N. Spyridopoulos, EchoHealth Pediatric and Adult Ultrasound Clinic, Athens, Greece

Tel.: +30 210 72 37 476

e-mail: t.spyridopoulos@echohealth.gr