

NON-HODGKINS LYMPHOMA OF LINGUAL TONSIL — A CASE REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

Malignant Lymphomas are a diverse group of disorders of the lymphatic system. This diversity, in terms of the natural history, therapeutic response and prognosis is well exemplified by the Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma may be nodal or extranodal in its site of presentation, unlike its site of origin which may be difficult to determine. Head and neck lymphomas differ from other lymphomas in the higher incidence of extranodal presentation and better prognosis. We report a case of Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma of the lingual tonsil.

CASE REPORT

A 38 year old man presented to us with a swelling of the posterior tongue of two months' duration. He was otherwise asymptomatic. Examination revealed a large sessile multinodular growth with intact mucosa, involving the lingual tonsils. (Figure 1) The rest of pharynx, larynx and systemic examination revealed no abnormality. Haematological and radiological investigations, bone marrow and computerised tomography of the abdomen, revealed no evidence of reticuloendothelial disease elsewhere.

Histopathology of the biopsy from the lesion revealed intact squamous epithelium with underlying tissue infiltrated diffusely by uniform malignant cells

with vesicular nuclei (Figure 2). The cell borders were indistinct. Immunoperoxidase staining with leucocyte common antigen showed positivity in the tumour cells. A diagnosis of Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (Rappaport classification) was made. The patient subsequently had radiotherapy and is doing well up to date.

DISCUSSION

Lymphomas are usually considered to be tumours of the lymph nodes but 24 to 84% of Non-Hodgkin's lymphomas are extranodal (1,2,3,4). Presentation at the base of the tongue is uncommon, 2.7% to 16% (5,4). Our patient had a growth of 4 cm by 3 cm and was diagnosed to have stage I disease. Hence the prognosis is good.

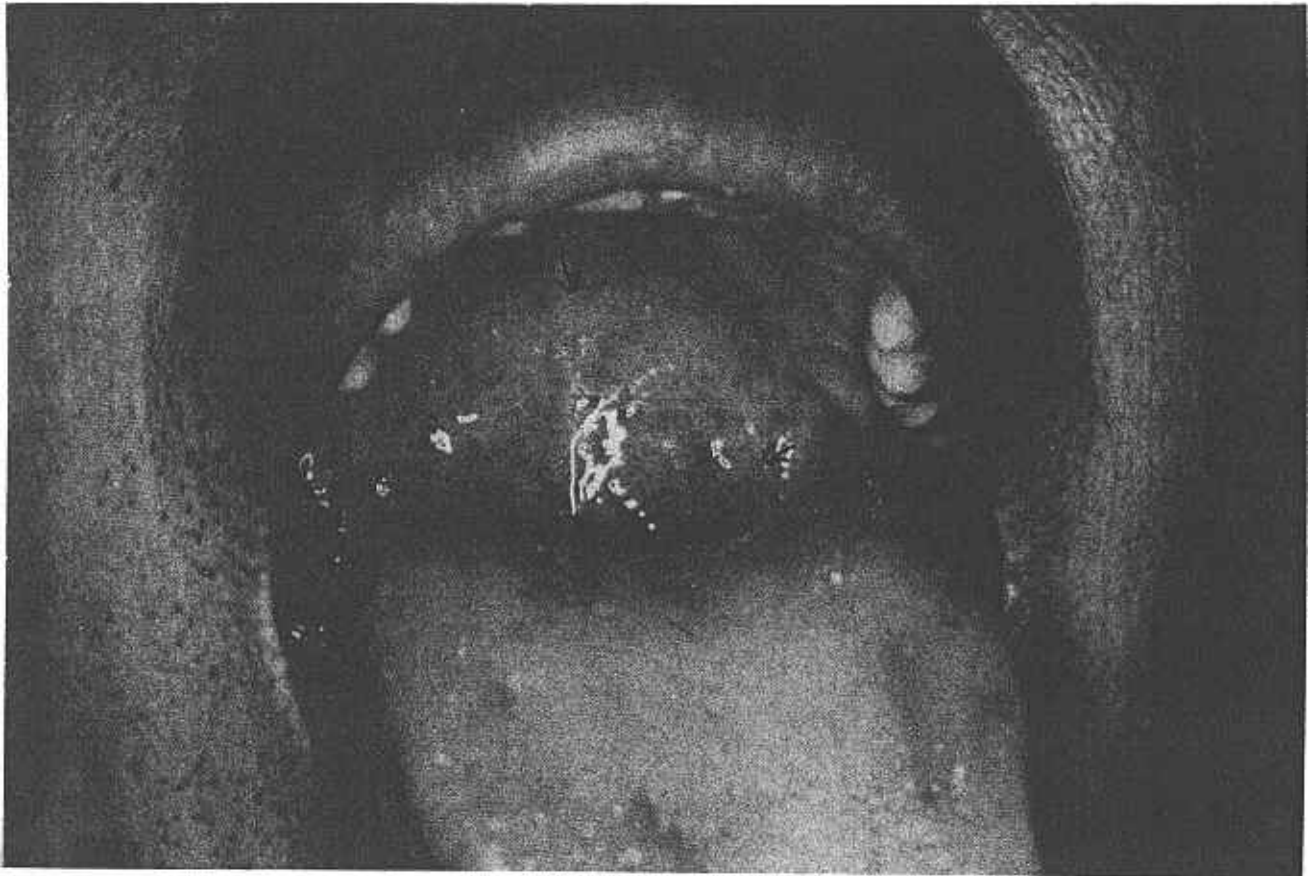


Figure 1. Intraoral photograph showing the lesion in the posterior tongue.

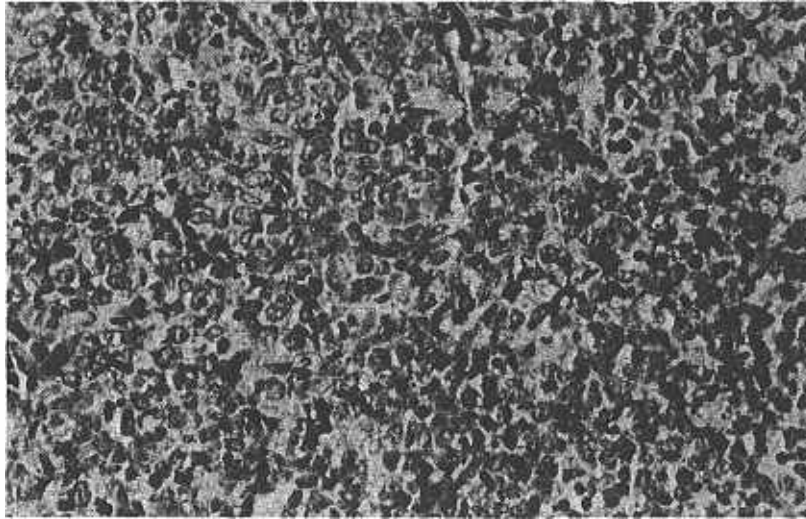


Figure 2. Shows diffuse infiltration by malignant cells.
H + E \times 175

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