

Papillary Carcinoma of a Thyroglossal Duct Cyst

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Aim. To present a patient with papillary carcinoma originating in a thyroglossal duct cyst, and stress the importance of its timely recognition.

Method. A surgical procedure was performed on a 51-year-old woman with an asymptomatic mass in the anterior midline of the neck.

Results. A thyroglossal duct cyst was diagnosed preoperatively (CT scan, ultrasound), and excised according to Sistrunk's principles. Histopathological analysis revealed a papillary carcinoma arising in the thyroglossal duct cyst. Anti-thyreoglobulin immuno-staining confirmed the finding. Thirty-eight months after the treatment, there were no signs of recurrence or metastases of the tumor.

Conclusion. Cysts of the thyroglossal duct should be treated surgically according to Sistrunk, with intraoperative exploration of thyroid and paratracheal structures. A close cooperation between a radiologist, surgeon and pathologist is of an utmost importance.

Key words: carcinoma; thyroglossal cyst

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