IMAGES IN ENDOCRINOLOGY

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Lingual Thyroid: An Ectopic Presentation at the Base of the Tongue

Rizqi Rifani[1,2] and Dicky Levenus Tahapary[3]

[1]*Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Indonesia - Cipto Mangunkusumo Hospital, Jakarta, Indonesia*
[2]*Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Lambung Mangkurat – Ulin General Hospital, Banjarmasin, Indonesia*
[3]*Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Indonesia - Cipto Mangunkusumo Hospital, Jakarta, Indonesia*

Key words: thyroid gland, ectopic, lingual thyroid, scintigraphy

Lingual thyroid is the most common form of thyroid ectopia, resulting from failure of normal caudal migration of the thyroid anlage during embryogenesis.[1] Diagnosis relies on cross-sectional imaging to define anatomy and radionuclide scintigraphy as the gold standard to verify functional thyroid tissue and exclude normally located gland.[2]

The images depict the clinical, radiological, and scintigraphic findings of a 27-year-old woman with ectopic lingual thyroid. Clinical photograph showed a smooth, reddish, round mass at the tongue base (Figure 1). Contrast-enhanced CT in sagittal and axial views demonstrated an enhancing lesion at the posterior tongue with the absence of orthotopic thyroid tissue in the pretracheal area (Figure 2). Tc-99m pertechnetate scintigraphy showed focal tracer uptake in the lingual region (Figure 3), confirming the diagnosis of ectopic thyroid tissue.

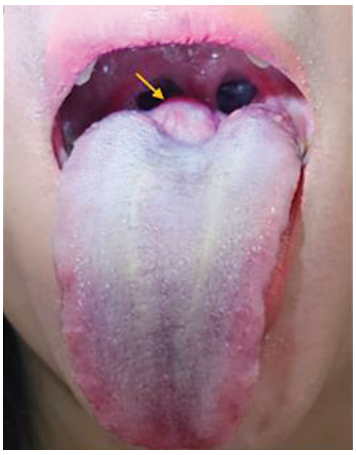

Figure 1. Examination of the tongue revealed a small, smooth, reddish mass located at the base of the tongue.

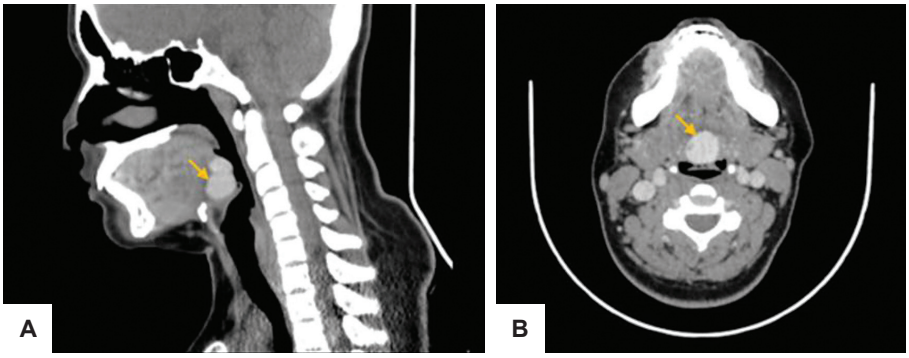

Figure 2. Contrast-enhanced multislice computed tomography (MSCT) of the neck demonstrated an ectopic thyroid gland at the base of the posterior tongue, shown in **(A)** sagittal and **(B)** axial views.

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Corresponding author: Rizqi Rifani, MD
Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes,
Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine,
Universitas Indonesia - Cipto Mangunkusumo Hospital
Diponegoro Street No. 71, Jakarta Pusat, Indonesia, 10430
Tel. No.: (+62) 021-3907703
E-mail: rizqi.rifani@gmail.com
ORCiD: https://orcid.org/0009-0009-5289-2657

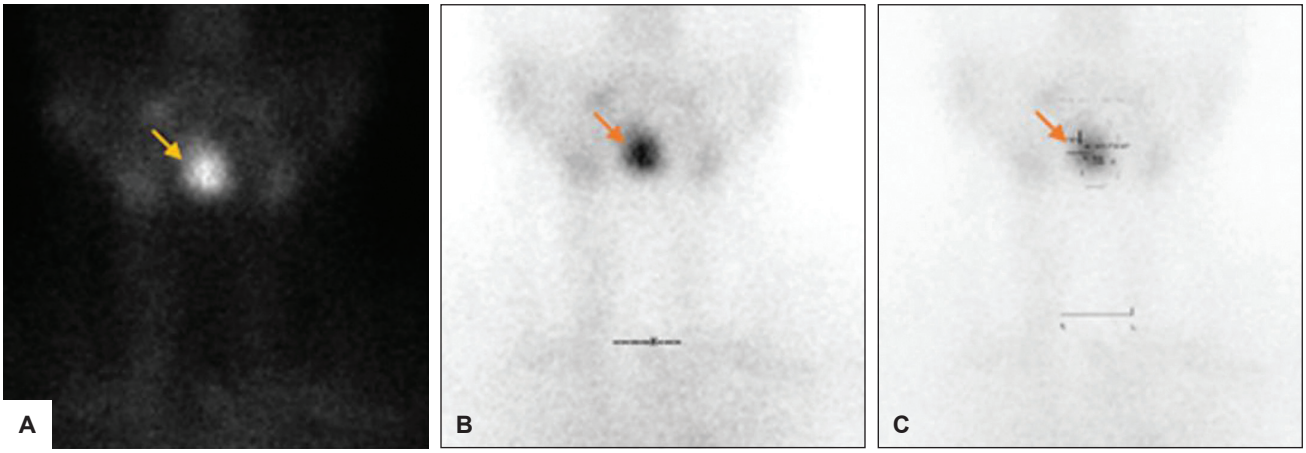

Figure 3. Thyroid scan with technetium-99m showing a round, focal area of radiotracer uptake in the lingual projection. **(A)** Focal area of increased radiotracer uptake in the midline at the base of the tongue *(orange arrow)*. **(B)** Focal radiotracer uptake in the lingual region *(orange arrow)*, suggestive of a lingual thyroid. **(C)** Confirmatory view demonstrating localized uptake at the base of the tongue *(orange arrow)*.

Ethical Consideration
Patient consent forms were obtained before manuscript submission.

Statement of Authorship
Both authors certified fulfillment of ICMJE authorship criteria.

CRediT Author Statement
RR: Conceptualization, Data curation, Visualization, Writing – original draft preparation, Writing – review and editing. **DT:** Conceptualization, Supervision, Writing – review and editing.

Data Availability Statement
No datasets were generated or analyzed for this study.

Author Disclosure
Both authors declared no conflict of interest.

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