The thyroid gland begins its development at the end of the third week of embryonic life as a proliferation of endodermal cells from the ventral floor of the pharynx

CLINICAL FEATURES

Thyroglossal duct cysts classically develop in the midline and may occur anywhere from the foramen cecum area of the tongue to the suprasternal notch

Thyroglossal duct cysts may develop at any age, but

they are most commonly diagnosed in the fi rst two

decades of life; about 50% of cases occur before the age

of 20. There is no sex predilection. The cyst usually

presents as a painless, fl uctuant, movable swelling

unless it is complicated by secondary infection

HISTOPATHOLOGIC FEATURES

Thyroglossal duct cysts are usually lined by columnar or stratified squamous epithelium, although occasionally, cuboidal or even small intestine epithelium maybe documented Sometimes a mixture of epithelial types is present.

Thyroid tissue may occur inthe cyst wall, but this is not a constant fi nding