

A Rare Case of Lingual Thyroid Associated with Graves Disease

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Ectopic thyroid tissue is a rare disease entity occurring in approximately 1 in every 100,000 individuals with a preponderance for females. Majority of patients present with a lingual thyroid and are asymptomatic. However, when clinically apparent, it commonly manifests with symptoms of compression or hypothyroidism. Hyperthyroidism in these rare cases is an unusual finding with few published reports. At present, no consensus for management of these cases has been formulated. We present a case of a 40-year old female who sought consult for a progressively enlarging submental mass associated with weight loss, palpitations, tremors, and heat intolerance. Thyroid function tests revealed low TSH levels with elevated FT4. She also tested positive for TSH receptor antibodies. Thyroid ultrasound showed an empty thyroid bed while thyroid scan showed diffuse tracer uptake in the midline submandibular area. She was diagnosed as a case of lingual thyroid with Graves disease. She was subsequently managed with radioactive iodine therapy with resolution of hyperthyroid symptoms.