A ghost in the neck: A case report

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Lateral neck swelling is common in general population usually it could be from the salivary gland mass namely parotid or submandibular gland. It could also be from the lymphadenopathy surrounding these structures. However, in this case a rare finding was discovered. **Case description:** We report a case of a 12-year-old boy presented with right submandibular mass or swelling which increase in size over the past 4 weeks and associated with pain. Clinically it measures 2x2cm located at right lower cheek close to submandibular gland region. Excision biopsy was performed. The microscopic description showed multiple pieces of tissue, many are composed of basaloid cells that show abrupt keratinisation without granular layer into ghost cell. Other pieces show multinucleated giant cell of foreign body type reaction. The final diagnosis is Pilomatricoma. **Discussion and Conclusion:** Pilomatricoma is a benign skin tumour derived from the hair matrix. It is relatively uncommon and typically occur on the scalp, face and upper extremities. Although it rare to occur at the submandibular region medical professional should be alert and aware that once of the differential diagnosis for the subcutaneous lateral neck mass could be a ghost cell which is Pilomatricoma.

Keywords: lateral neck swelling, pilomatricoma, ghost cell