

## *An unusual differential diagnosis for a peri-parotideal soft tissue nodule.*

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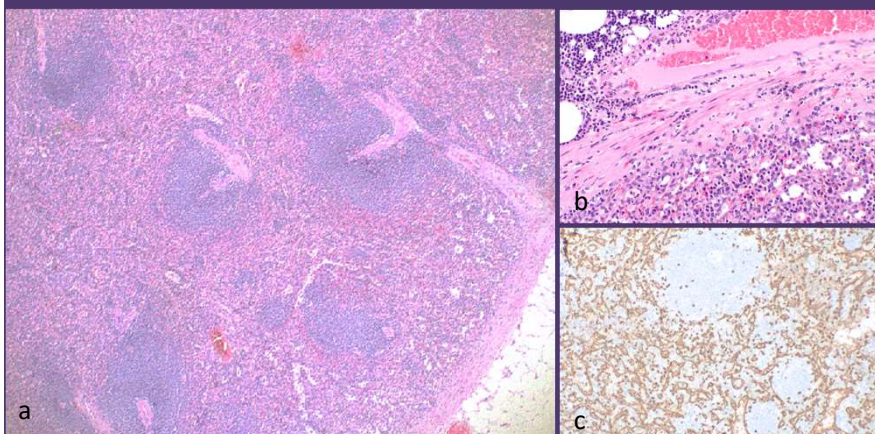
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### OBJECTIVES:

We report an insight into an underrated differential diagnosis of a suspicious nodule located in the soft tissue of the medial portion of the inferior left parotid in a patient with a history of contralateral Whartin's tumor and splenic rupture

### METHODS:

We performed a literature review and immunohistochemical investigations to confirm the histological origin of the nodule.



**Figure legend:** a) The resected nodule consisted of splenic parenchyma with normal microscopic features and regular proportion of B and T areas, E/E HPF10x b) A detail of well-formed splenic capsule containing bundles of smooth muscle cells, E/E HPF40x c) CD8 immunohistochemical reaction highlights the littoral cells lining the splenic sinusoids, CD8 HPF10x.

### RESULTS:

Splenosis is the acquired form of splenic tissue ectopia. It is defined as heterotopic implantation of spleen nodules in distant human tissue that follows the hematogenous spread, or which is due to intracoelomatic spillage of the splenic fragments released during traumatic rupture, and/or because of the surgical removal of the spleen.

To the best of our knowledge this is the second literature report of splenosis in the head and neck tissue. The first one was intracranial.

### CONCLUSION:

Splenosis is a benign condition that, on imaging, can be misinterpreted as a neoplastic mass, peritoneal carcinosis or a lymphoproliferative disorders and that can be the cause of pain, obstruction and gastrointestinal or genital bleeding. Ectopic spleen nodules are very rare in head and neck tissue but in patient with history of splenic trauma, the differential diagnosis of splenosis should be ruled out to avoid unnecessary biopsy, chemotherapy, or surgery.

### REFERENCES:

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