



## Lingual Thyroid

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### Clinical Image

Lingual thyroid is an ectopic thyroid tissue seen in base of tongue arising due to failure of descends of medial anlage of thyroid gland from base of tongue to its normal position in front of trachea during embryonic development [1]. This is a rare condition with reported incidence rate of 1 in 100,000 and occurrence is seven times higher in female than male [2]. Diagnosis and proper management is of utmost importance as they may be the only functioning thyroid tissue [3] (Figure 1). Seventy percent of patients with ectopic thyroid tissue are hypothyroid [4].

Histological examination reveals normal thyroid parenchyma along with glossal tissue. This may present as dysphagia, dysphonia, bleeding or obstruction in the upper respiratory tract [5]. Diagnosis can be made by Technetium (Tc-99) scintigraphy to detect thyroid tissue.

Surgical removal is indicated in hyperthyroid cases not responding to medical treatment, obstructive symptoms, and complications such as ulceration, bleeding, cystic degeneration, or malignancy [5,6].



Figure 1: Lingual Thyroid.

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