Figure. (A) Photograph depicting atrophy and furrowing of the leftward-deviating tongue. (B) Axial T2-weighted image of a 2.2×2.3 -cm left hypoglossal nerve schwannoma (arrow).

VIDEO Extracranial hypoglossal schwannoma

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A 55-year-old woman seen for chronic daily headaches had a normal examination except that her left tongue showed atrophy

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with fasciculations and protruded leftward. She and her dentist were unaware of these changes, and she denied speech or swallowing difficulties. MRI demonstrated a solitary enhancing extracranial lesion that extended from the left hypoglossal canal to the poststyloid parapharyngeal space abutting the cranial base without intracranial extension. The differential diagnosis included schwannoma, paraganglioma, lymphoma, or metastatic disease. The excised tumor was a schwannoma (figure; video). Isolated extracranial hypoglossal schwannoma without neurofibromatosis is uncommon.

Video Legend. Tongue fasciculations ("bag of worms"), atrophy, and deviation secondary to a left hypoglossal nerve schwannoma.

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Extracranial hypoglossal schwannoma

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