

Ulcerated nodules of the tongue

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CASE REPORT

A 59-year-old white woman was referred to our observation for ulcers of the tongue of two months duration. Her medical history included previous Merkel cells carcinoma of the zygomatic region with lympho-nodal involvement five years earlier, which had been treated with surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy, and a diagnosis of systemic sarcoidosis two years later, with sub-chin nodes and pulmonary involvement, the latter left untreated as functionality tests were normal. Intraoral examination showed two ulcerated nodules of the dorsal tongue (*figure 1*); the lesions were painless, grew slowly, and

showed positivity to toluidine-blue vital test. A PET-scan revealed two distinct solid masses of the tongue with increased signal intensity, and some little lymph nodes located at the right mandibular angle. Serum sIL-2R test was not performed. An excisional biopsy of the lesions with histological examination was performed (*figure 2*). No adjunctive treatment was suggested for the ulcerations.

WHAT IS YOUR DIAGNOSIS?

See page 348 for the answer to this photo quiz.

Figure 1. Clinical appearance of the ulcerated nodules of the tongue



Figure 2. Histological examination (Haematoxylin-Eosin stain, original magnification x10). Multiple non-caseating granulomas (arrows) with variable appearance from discrete to well demarcated. Also, some are confluent, and contain epithelioid macrophages and multinucleated giant cells, surrounded by a diffuse lymphocytic infiltrate

