Undefined mass in head-neck region on iodine-123 scan

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Figure 1. A CT scan of the head and neck shows a contrast enhancing mass at the base of the tongue



Figure 2. An Iodine-123 SPECT CT scan shows high uptake in the mass



CASE REPORT

A 30-year-old Caucasian woman was referred to the ear-nose-throat outpatient clinic complaining of dysphagia, otalgia and fever for four days. She did not have any relevant medical history. Under the suspicion of a pharyngeal abscess, a computed tomography (CT) scan was made, confirming the diagnosis; however, a contrast-enhancing mass at the base of the tongue was also visible (figure 1). An iodine-123 single photo emission tomography (SPECT)/CT scan was made, showing high iodine uptake in the lesion at the base of the tongue (figure 2).

What is your diagnosis?

See page 232 for the answer to this photo quiz