

IMAGES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE

Torus Palatinus



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A 70-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WHO PRESENTED TO THE CLINIC FOR A ROUTINE examination was found to have a 6-cm mass on her hard palate. She reported that the mass had been present since birth. Occasionally, she found that the area was hard to clean and that entrapped food gave her halitosis, but otherwise she was asymptomatic. Palatal tori are seen in approximately 20 to 30% of the population and are more common in females than in males. Frequently, these bony outgrowths are incidental findings on routine oral examinations, and there is often considerable variation in clinical appearance. The lesion in this patient was unchanged over a 2-year period of follow-up. Surgical correction was offered, but the patient declined because the lesion was asymptomatic.

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