

Clinical Importance

- Referring MD can see all of oropharyngeal PMS surface
- Radiologist provides staging information regarding
 - Size of primary tumor (T1-T3)
 - Invasion of lingual surface of epiglottis (T3)
 - Invasion of larynx, tongue muscles, medial pterygoid, hard palate, mandible (T4a)
 - Invasion of perivertebral space, carotid artery, mediastinum (T4b)
 - Nodal staging: Retropharyngeal, levels II-IV & V most commonly affected

Imaging pitfalls

- Oropharyngeal SCCa staging
 - When tumor in inferior base of tongue area, extension to the lingual surface of epiglottis is staged as T3, not T4a
- Remember base of tongue (lingual tonsil) is in oropharynx, not oral cavity!

Staging

- **T1:** ≤ 2 cm
- **T2:** > 2 cm but ≤ 4 cm
- **T3:** > 4 cm or extension to lingual surface of epiglottis
- **T4a** (moderately advanced local disease): Tumor invades larynx, extrinsic tongue muscles, medial pterygoid, hard palate, or mandible
- **T4b** (very advanced local disease): Tumor invades into perivertebral space, encases carotid artery, or involves mediastinum

ISSUES IN OROPHARYNGEAL CA

- **Status of neurovascular bundle**
- **Bilaterality**
- **Extent of mandibular involvement**
- **Spread to OC, maxilla, palate**
- **Fixation to prevertebral muscles**
- **Spread to “spaces”**
- **Pre-epiglottic fat**

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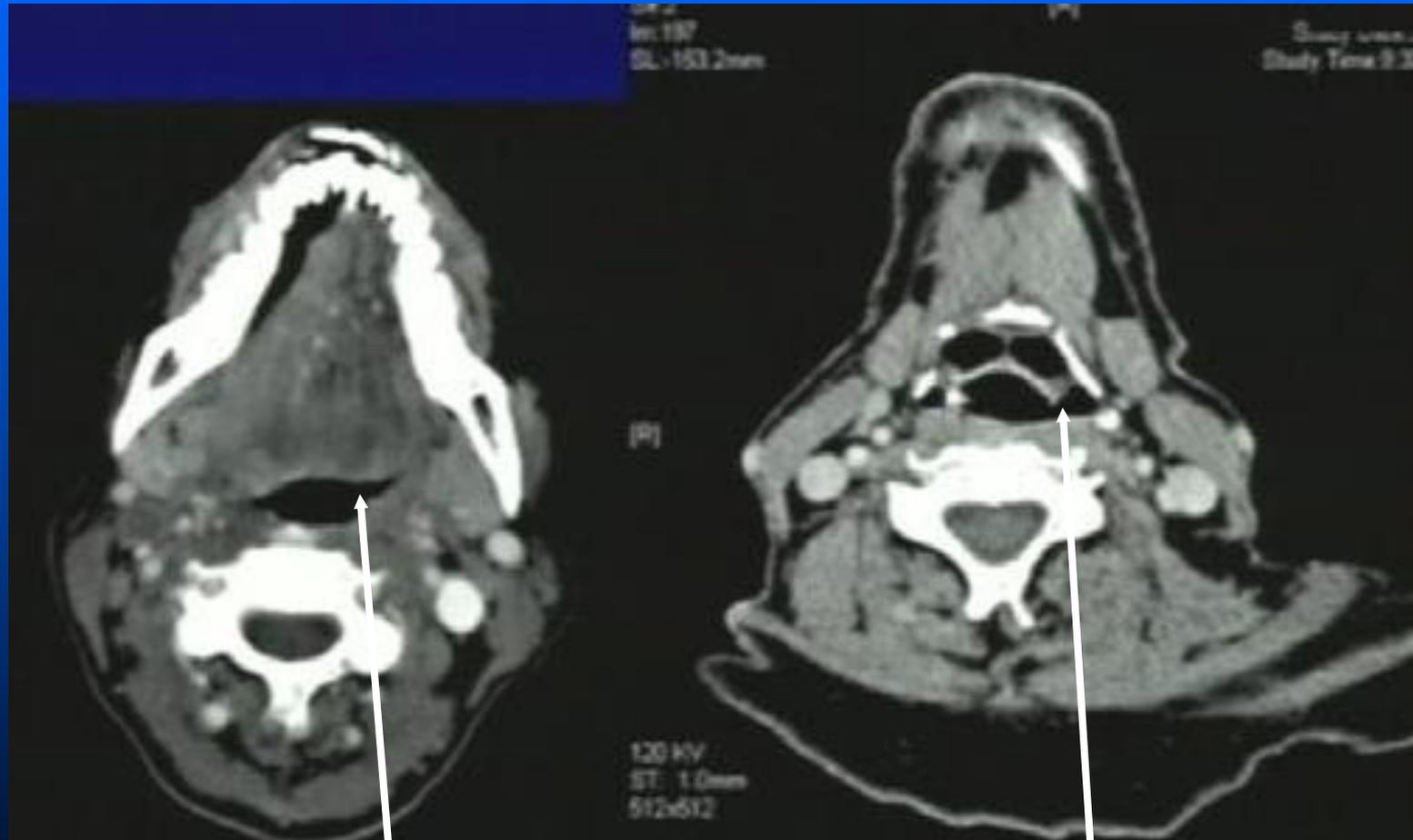
MSG

MSG TUMORS

- **Benign**
 - Pleomorphic adenoma
- **Malignant**
 - Adenoid cystic CA
 - Mucoepidermoid
 - Adenocarcinoma
 - Undifferentiated/Acinic cell

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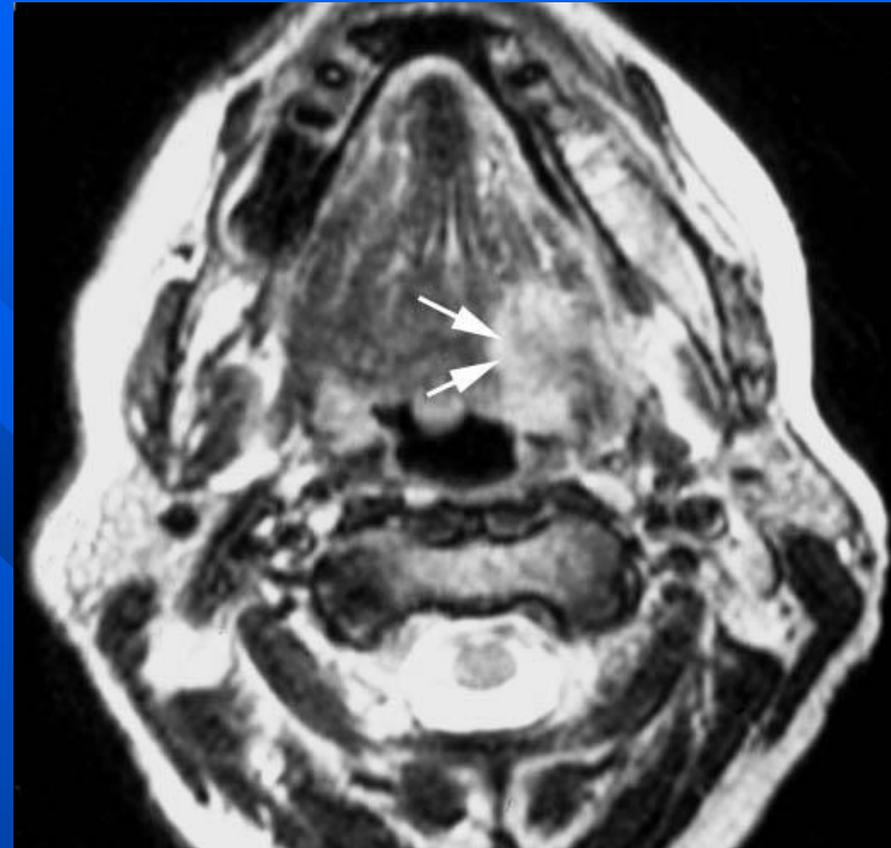
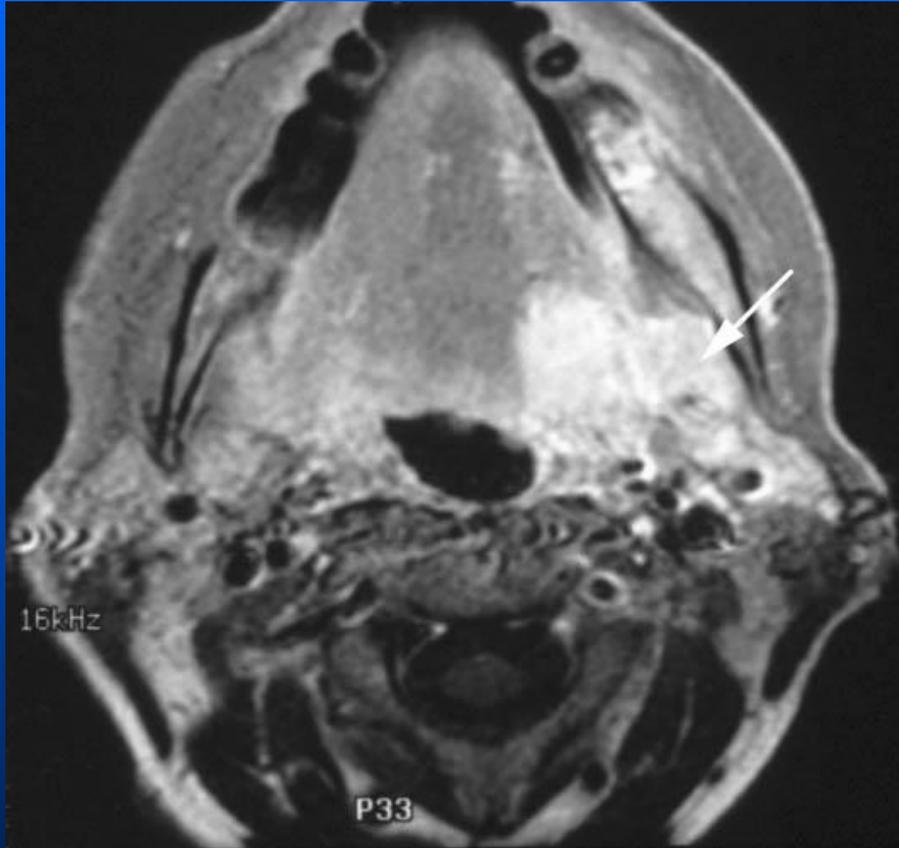
Oropharynx



Glossotonsillar sulcus

Pharyngoepiglottic fold

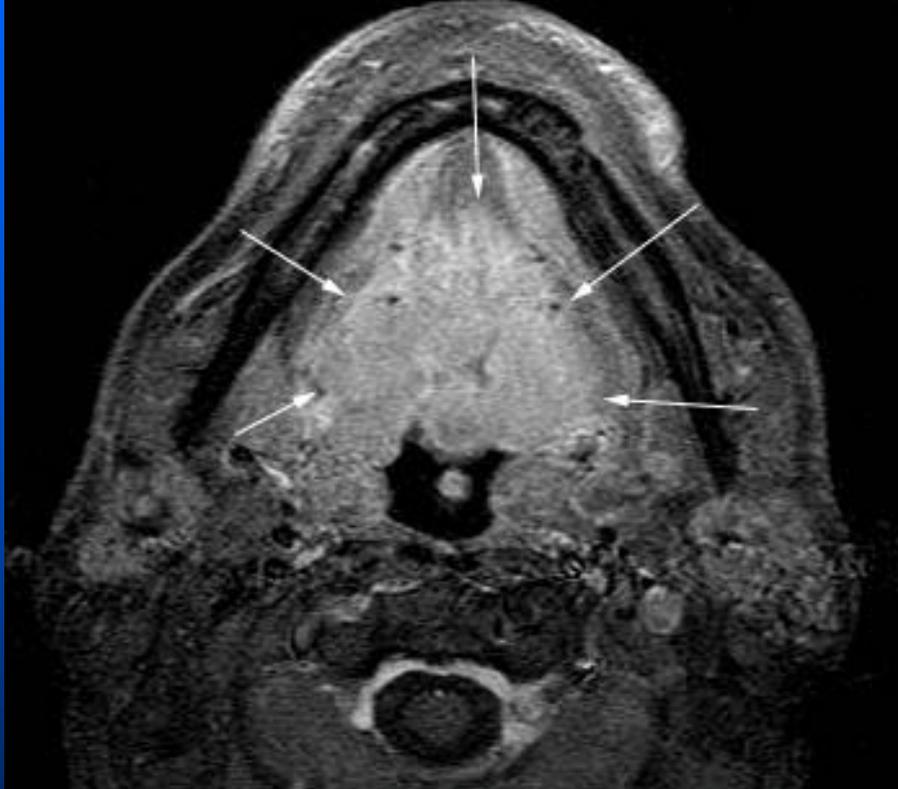
Squamous cell carcinoma of the left glosso tonsillar fossa



lesion extends laterally in
the medial pterygoid muscle
(arrow).

Base of the tongue tumor

Not seen on T1

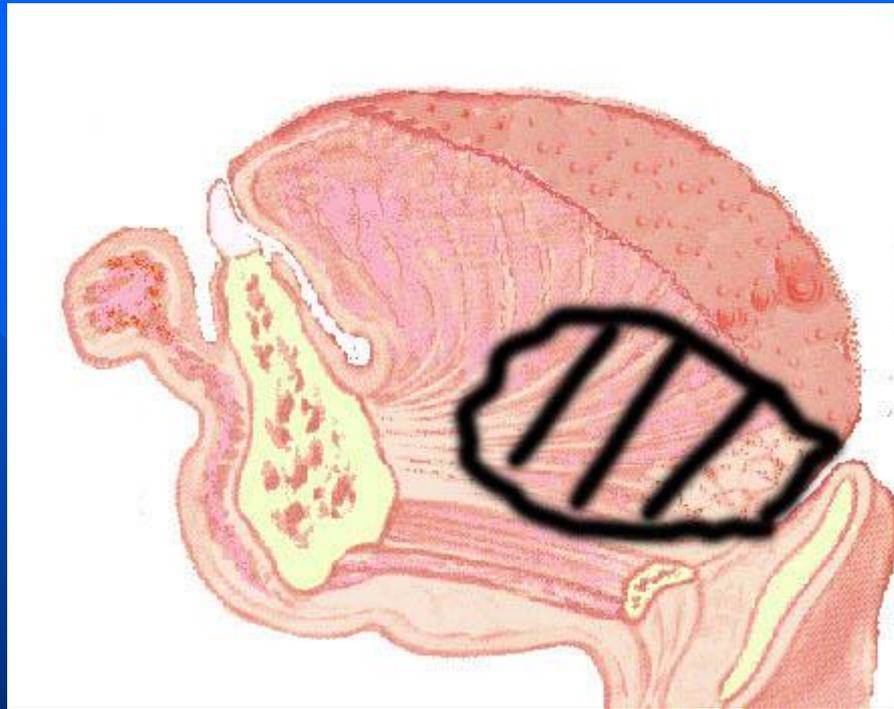


Lesion extends anteriorly along the fibers of the genioglossus muscle, almost reaching the symphysis menti.



Both lingual arteries (recognized by their characteristic flow void) are embedded within the tumor.

Base of the tongue tumor



The genioglossus muscle extends from the superior genial tubercle and fans out in the entire tongue, (mobile and base of the tongue portions). The tumor is superimposed on the drawing.