

IMAGES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE

Torus Palatinus



A 50-YEAR-OLD MAN PRESENTED FOR A ROUTINE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION for the first time in 10 years. He reported having had no recent health problems. He had a 60 pack-year smoking history and did not drink alcohol. During the examination, a painless, firm mass was found on the hard palate. The remainder of the examination was unremarkable. The patient reported that this lesion had been present and without change since childhood. A torus palatinus, a benign overgrowth of bone, was diagnosed. Approximately 20% of the population has at least a small torus palatinus, which often goes unnoticed until middle age. This condition occurs twice as often in women as in men.

Copyright © 2007 Massachusetts Medical Society.

Khiem T. Tran, M.D., M.H.A.
Marcia Shannon, F.N.P.

Kyle Health Center
Kyle, SD 57752
trankt54155@yahoo.com

WEB-ONLY IMAGES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE

Click on "Featured Images" at www.nejm.org to see the *Journal's* Web-only Images in Clinical Medicine. The Images are listed (with page numbers) in the table of contents of the printed *Journal* the week they are published and are compiled on the *Journal's* Web site.