



## The importance of imaging in the diagnosis of secondary headache: case report

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### Introduction

Primary headaches are those that occur without etiology, with a good prognosis; the secondary ones are those caused by pathologies, whether of vascular, infectious or oncological origin, among others. Imaging exams, in addition to clinical history, has a fundamental importance in the diagnosis and follow-up of such entities. Objective

To describe a case report of a patient who had been treating a primary left hemicranial headache, which was later shown, through imaging tests, to have a secondary origin to parotid neoplasia.

### Case report

Patient F.L.F.M, male, 84 years old, from the rural area of Marco-CE, heavy smoker, with a history of long-standing left hemicranial headache, treated at the health center with dipyron and anti-non-steroidal inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). He was referred to the imaging service due to self-perception of a nodulation in the topography of the left parotid in association with worsening headache and refractory pain control. A contrast-enhanced tomographic study of the skull, face and neck was carried out, which revealed a solid, heterogeneous lesion, containing areas of necrosis/liquefaction, occupying the lower portion of the left parotid superficial lobe, determining bulging of the platysma and, indirectly, of the subcutaneous/cutaneous tissue, suggestive of neoplastic involvement. The patient was referred to the head and neck surgery service to undergo the lesion excision procedure and subsequent histopathological study, which is still awaiting the results.

### Conclusion

It is essential that, in addition to clinical suspicion, imaging exams are added to the investigative workup of headaches, since those with a secondary cause, as they originate from another problem, may have a better prognosis and quality of life for the patient. patient if treated early. Remember that elderly people, especially those who smoke, are high-risk patients for numerous pathologies, including secondary headaches.

**Keywords:** Headache; Parotid tumor; Head and neck neoplasia.