

## Schwannoma in the parotid gland. Experience at our institute and review of the literature

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### ABSTRACT

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Schwannoma of the parotid gland is an uncommon tumor. When the facial nerve is involved by the tumor at the time of the operation, the surgical approach requires careful evaluation. The purpose of this study is to provide indications which can support the decision, taking into account the different clinical presentations of parotid schwannoma. In a retrospective study, eight cases of parotid schwannoma were collected between 1975 and 2006. In three cases the tumor affected the facial nerve itself and in the remaining ones it originated from intraparotid nonfacial peripheral nerves. When the facial nerve is involved by the tumor a conservative approach should always be considered. The indication for a surgical procedure should be discussed with the patient. If a conservative strategy is chosen, yearly follow-up by means of MRI and clinical observation should be planned.

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**Key words:** schwannoma, parotid neoplasm, conservative management, facial nerve, neurilemmoma.

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