INTRODUCTION

Lingual tonsils are the most neglected element of Waldeyer’s ring; they cannot be visualized in a plain oropharyngeal examination. Lingual tonsillar hypertrophy (LTH) is frequently asymptomatic and underdiagnosed, but may be associated with obstructive sleep apnea (OSA); it is also included in the differential diagnosis of tongue base lymphoma. We present a case report and a review of the literature.

CASE REPORT

A male patient aged 36 years complained of snoring and insomnia. There was a history of nasal voice and serous otitis media since childhood, including placement of ventilation tubes (the last one in 2003). The patient underwent tonsillectomy at age 7 years and adenoidectomy at age 33 years. The patient smoked (15 years-pack) but did not consume alcoholic beverages.

At the physical examination the patient was 469 years. The patient smoked (15 years-pack) but did not consume alcoholic beverages.

Lingual tonsil hypertrophy producing significant symptoms and affect the quality of life of patients. LTH is part of the differential diagnosis of OSA and lymphomas of the base of the tongue, and should be taken into account when these cases are investigated.

REFERENCES