

# Retropharyngeal Thymus

Joseph Junewick, MD FACR

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## History

2 year old male with pharyngeal mass noted during tonsilectomy

## Diagnosis

Retropharyngeal Thymus

## Discussion

Thymus is the latinized form of the greek thymos meaning the origin of the soul and spirit. It is gill derivative evolutionarily first seen in sharks, thought to have an osmoregulatory function. It forms from the 3rd and 4th pharyngeal pouches at about 7-8 weeks comprised of ectoderm, endoderm, mesenchyme and neural crest cells. Aberrant thymus anywhere from mandible to diaphragm.

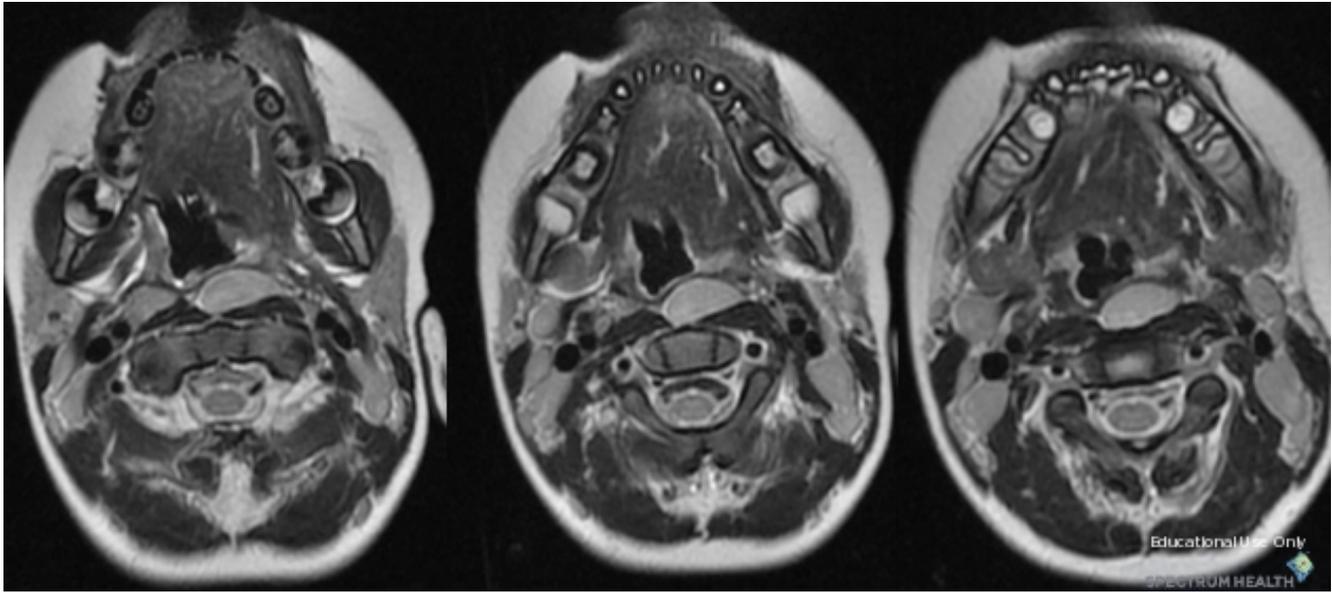
## Findings

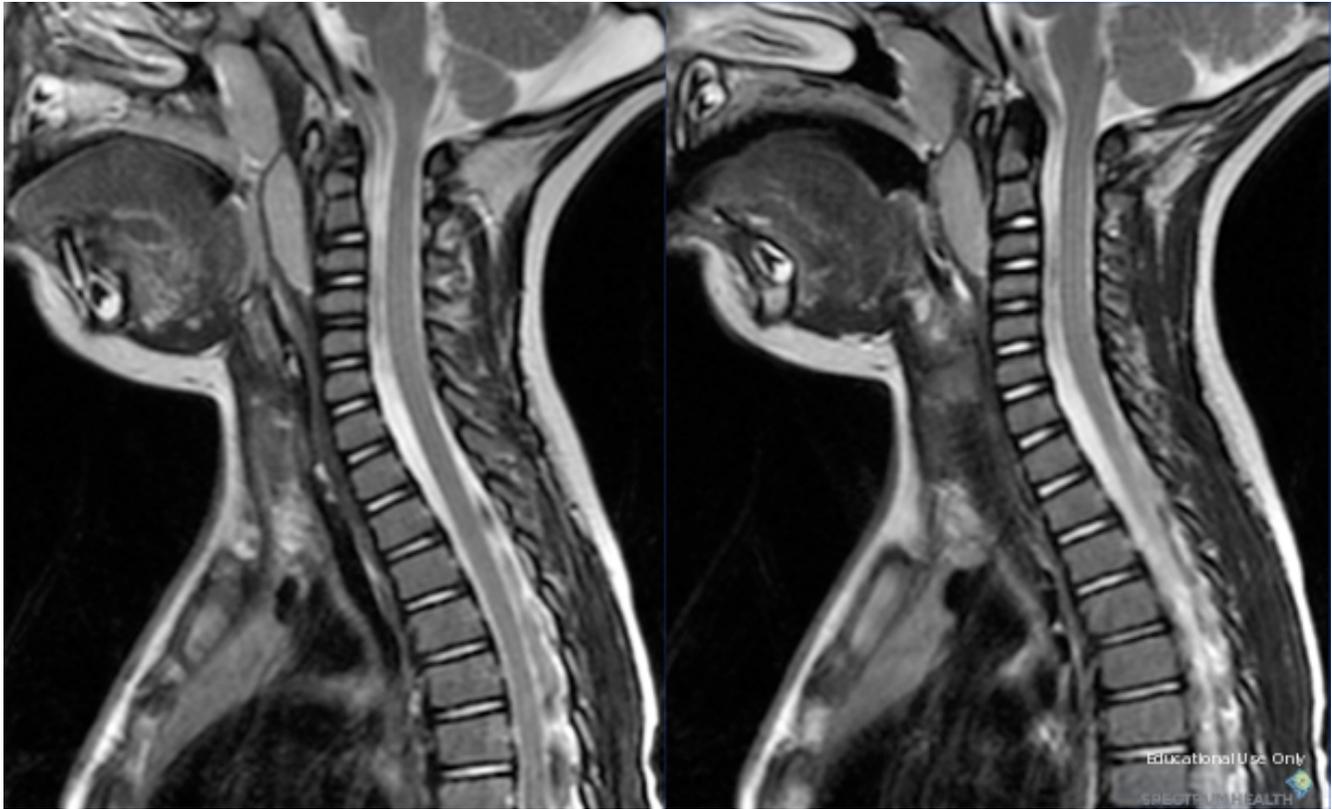
MR \_ Sagittal and axial T2 images of the neck show a circumscribed lentiform retropharyngeal hyperintense lesion.

## Reference

Shah S. Retropharyngeal aberrant thymus. *Pediatr* (2001); 108:e94

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