

# Vagus Nerve Schwannoma case series

Case series of three patients who underwent vagal schwannoma excision utilizing a IONM technique. The recurrent laryngeal and vagus nerves were monitored via the laryngeal adductor reflex (LAR) using an electromyographic endotracheal tube.

Three patients with suspected vagal schwannomas were treated surgically using the intracapsular enucleation approach with a combination of intermittent IONM and continuous IONM of the LAR.

This combination of continuous and intermittent IONM can be used to preserve vagal laryngeal innervation and function and may represent the future standard of care for vagal schwannoma excision <sup>1)</sup>.

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Green et al. reported 36 of these rare neoplasms in 35 patients. The majority of the tumors presented as a mass in the upper cervical or parapharyngeal region. Usually the mass was asymptomatic. The following types and frequencies of neoplasms of the vagus nerve were noted: [paragangliomas](#), 50%; [neurilemmomas](#), 31%; [neurofibromas](#), 14%; and [neurofibrosarcomas](#), 6%. Surgical resection, with preservation of the [vagus nerve](#) when possible, is the treatment of choice. The clinical features, diagnosis, management, and prognosis of the tumors are presented. Special problems that occur with vagal neoplasms include postoperative dysfunction, catecholamine secretion, and intracranial or skull-base extension <sup>2)</sup>.

<sup>1)</sup>

Sandler ML, Sims JR, Sinclair C, Ho R, Yue LE, Téllez MJ, Ulkatan S, Khorsandi AS, Brandwein-Weber M, Urken ML. A novel approach to neurologic function sparing surgical management of vagal schwannomas: Continuous intraoperative nerve monitoring of the laryngeal adductor reflex. *Head Neck*. 2019 Sep;41(9):E146-E152. doi: 10.1002/hed.25793. Epub 2019 May 6. PubMed PMID: 31058386.

<sup>2)</sup>

Green JD Jr, Olsen KD, DeSanto LW, Scheithauer BW. Neoplasms of the vagus nerve. *Laryngoscope*. 1988 Jun;98(6 Pt 1):648-54. PubMed PMID: 2836676.

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