

Vascular Conditions of the Brain

Carotid Body Tumor

Carotid body tumors are rare, benign tumors that grow from cells of the carotid body, a baroreceptor (pressure receptor) found at the carotid bifurcation. The carotid body is normally involved in blood pressure regulation. Carotid body tumors are a type of paraganglioma, related to glomus jugulare tumors and adrenal pheochromocytomas, all rare.

Carotid body tumors usually present as a painless lump in the neck. They are treated with surgical removal, preceded by embolizations of the tumor.

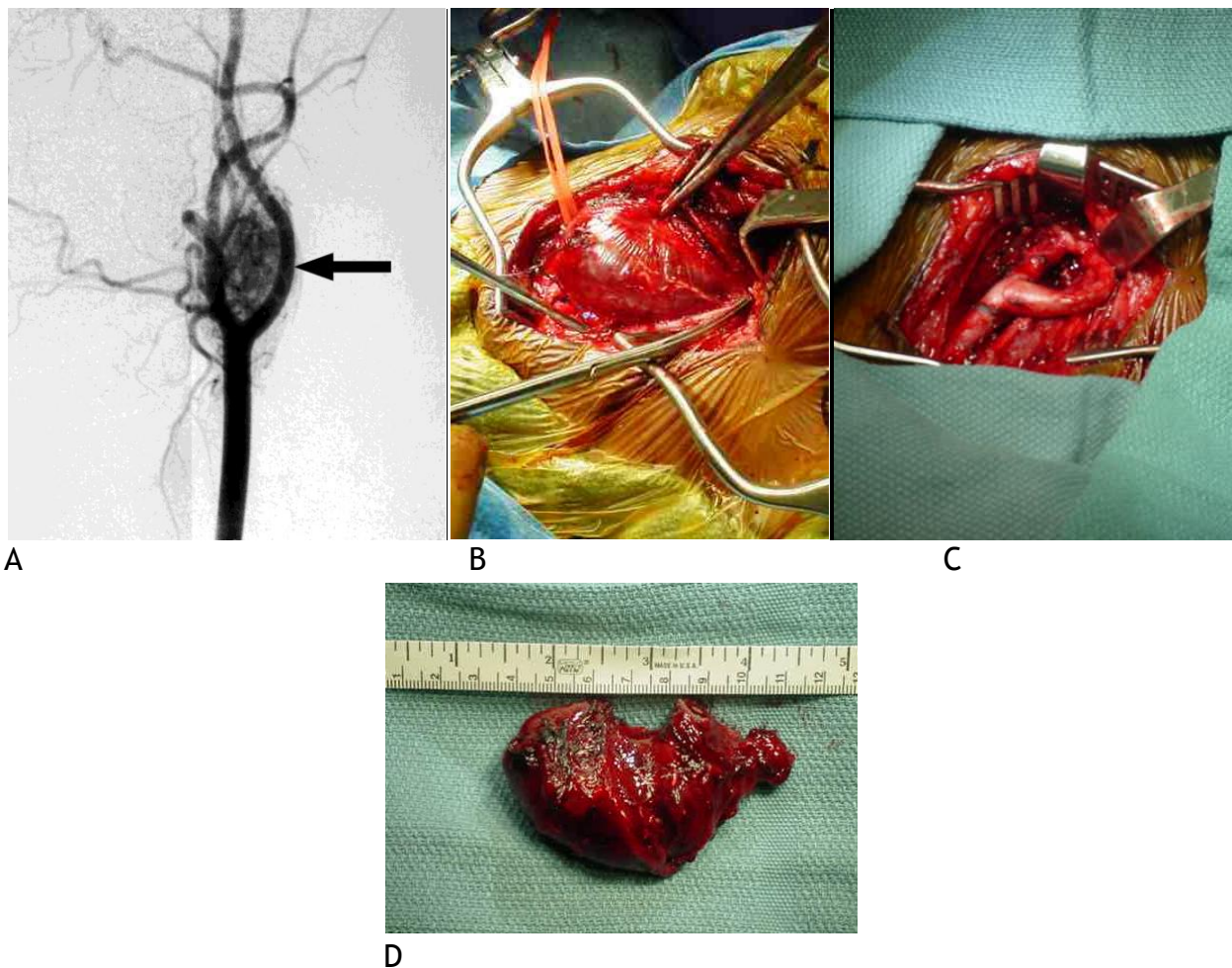


Figure 2: Carotid Body Tumor.

- A. Angiogram showing tumor blush (arrow) at the carotid bifurcation.
- B. Dissection of a large carotid body tumor.
- C. Carotid bifurcation after removal of the tumor.
- D. Tumor removed.