

# Vagal body tumours

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Vagal paragangliomas arise from nests of paraganglionic tissue of the vagus nerve just below the base of the skull near the jugular foramen. They may also be found at various sites along the nerve down to the level of the carotid artery bifurcation. They also present as slowly growing and painless masses in the anterolateral aspect of the neck, and may also have a long history, commonly of 2–3 years, before diagnosis. They may William R Shamblin, Mayo Graduate School of Medicine (University of Minnesota), Rochester, MN, USA, described this classification in 1971. Friedrich Theodor Schwann, 1810–1882, Professor of Anatomy and Physiology, successively at Louvain (1839–1848) and Liège (1848–1880), Belgium, described the neurilemma in 1839. Friedrich Daniel von Recklinghausen, 1833–1910, Professor of Pathology, Strasbourg, France, described generalised neurofibromatosis in 1882. spread into the cranial cavity. Diagnosis is confirmed by CT and MRI scanning and additional MRA or arteriography if necessary. Treatment is surgical excision following appropriate consent of resulting hoarseness. -

(b) demonstrating a left carotid body tumour.

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