*"Left temporal cyst as a likely complication of previous otological surgery with temporalis fascia graft harvest"*

Objective: To demonstrate the occurrence of an asymptomatic probably iatrogenic temporal epidermoid inclusion cyst following revision myringoplasty with temporalis fascia graft harvesting and a post-auricular incision.

Methods: A 20-year-old patient presented with an enlarging left pre-auricular/temporal mass. His history included revision left myringoplasty (with temporalis fascia) 5 years previously. Clinical examination revealed a soft 6 cm swelling with no overlying skin changes, normal VII function and a healed postauricular scar. Ultrasound-guided fine needle aspiration was non-diagnostic. MRI imaging was obtained.

Results:

The MRI showed an enhancing 6cm septate cystic lesion between the temporalis muscle and deep cervical fascia (figure 1a+b). The patient was consented for surgical excision which was carried out via a modified face lift incision using intraoperative facial nerve monitoring, with uneventful recovery. Histopathological analysis reported a focally-thickened encapsulated mass, in keeping with an epidermoid cyst.

Conclusion: Epidermoid cysts are benign tumours which commonly present in the head and neck. These lesions can arise through localised trauma (such as previous surgery) with implantation of squamous cells into the deeper tissues. The differential diagnosis included a branchial arch cyst. This case presents a rare complication of ear surgery.