

# 25-year-old male with palpable neck mass and trouble swallowing

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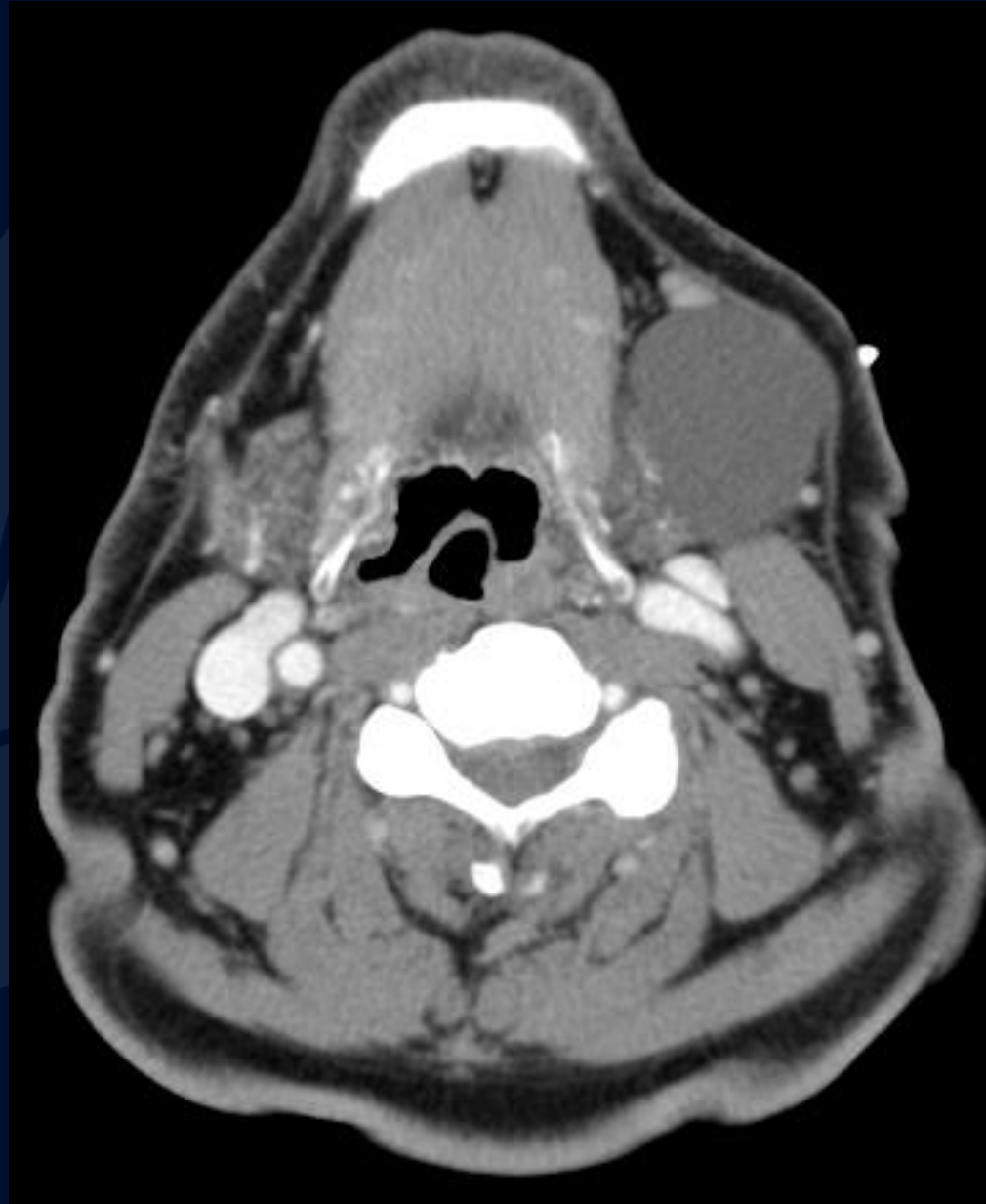
# CT with IV contrast



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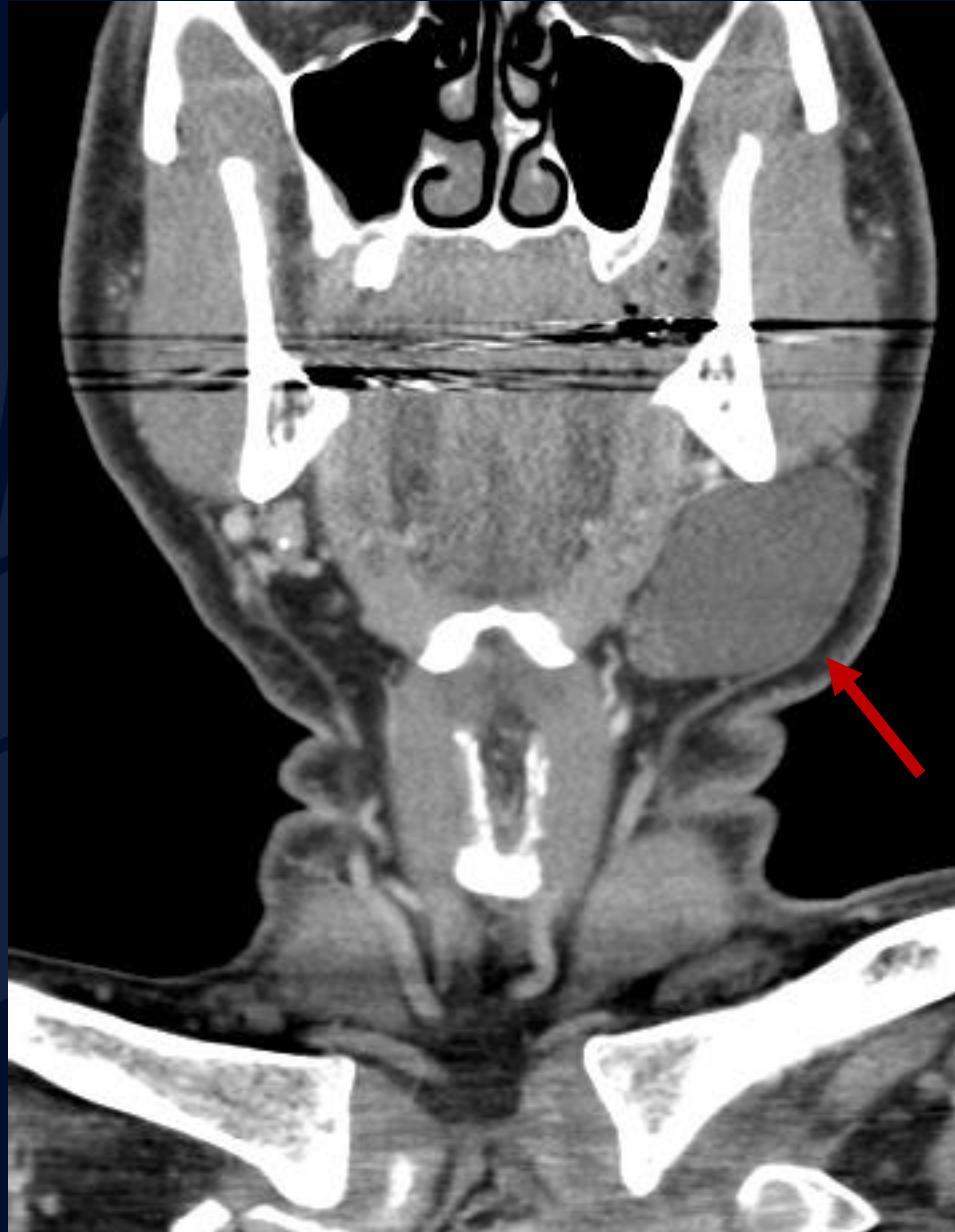
# Second Branchial Cleft Cyst

# CT with IV contrast

Left branchial cyst appears as round, thin-walled, fluid filled, sharply circumscribed lesion



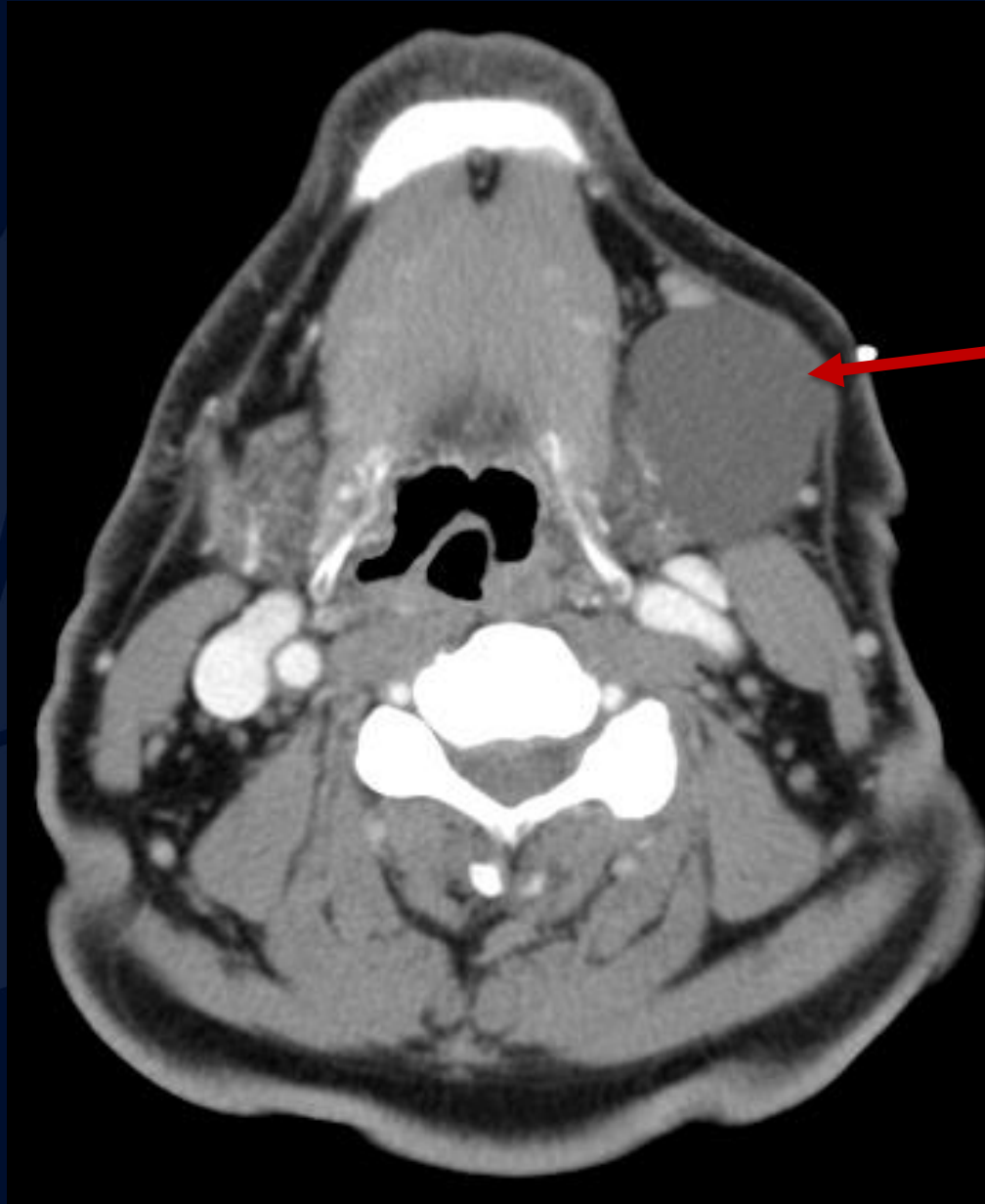
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## CT with IVcontrast



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# Second Branchial Cleft Cyst

**Clinical Presentation:** Present in early adulthood (10 – 40 y/o) after minor trauma or infection. Symptoms depend on size, ranging from completely asymptomatic to dysphagia and shortness of breath

**Location:** Can occur anywhere along the second branchial apparatus, with the most common location being at the angle of the mandible

## Imaging:

- **CT:** Round, thin-walled, fluid filled, sharply circumscribed lesion
  - **Notch Sign:** Can occasionally see extension of cyst wall between the internal and external carotid arteries above the carotid bifurcation
- **MRI**
  - **T1:** Variable signal depends on protein content (High protein = High intensity)
  - **T2:** Nearly always a hyper-intense signal

# References

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