Dec 2022

Journal Newsletter

Neck In USS lymphoma

More than one-third of the lymph nodes within the body are found within the head and neck, making them a common site for pathology. Differentiation between benign and malignant lymph nodes is critical for accurate prognosis and to guide appropriate management.

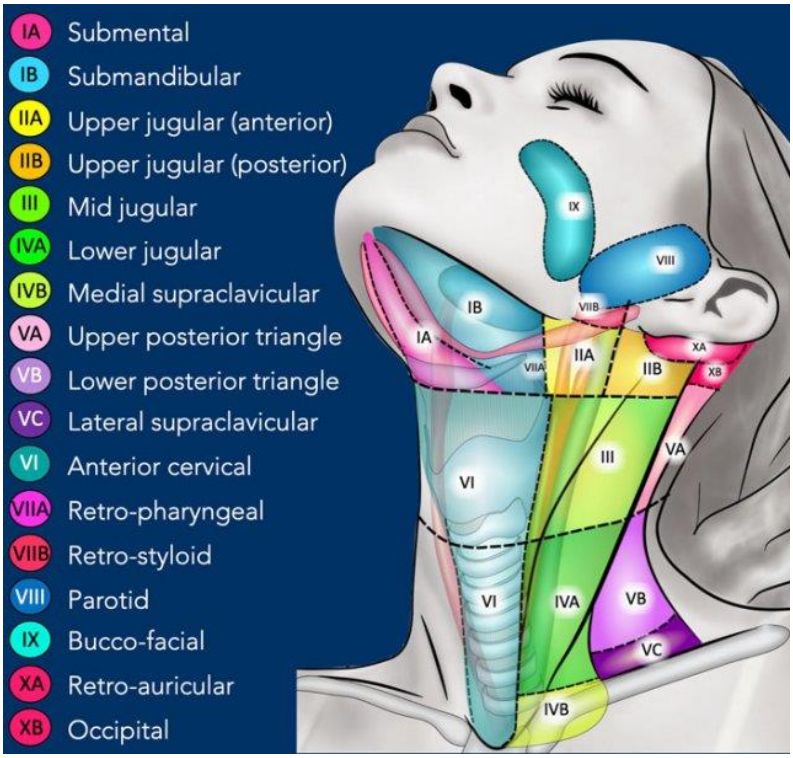

Figure 1. Illustration of the key groups of cervical lymph nodes.

When a pathology is suspected, ultrasound offers a rapid method of investigation. High-resolution sonography using grey scale and colour Doppler provides an accurate, sensitive, and specific method for differentiating between benign and malignant cervical lymph nodes.

The head and neck are the second most common region for extra-nodal lymphomas, after that of the GI tract. Lymphomas are malignant neoplasms of the lymphocyte cell lines. They mainly involve the lymph nodes, spleen, and other non-haematopoietic tissues. They are classified as Hodgkin's or non-Hodgkin's lymphomas and are either of B-lymphocyte or T-lymphocyte origin.

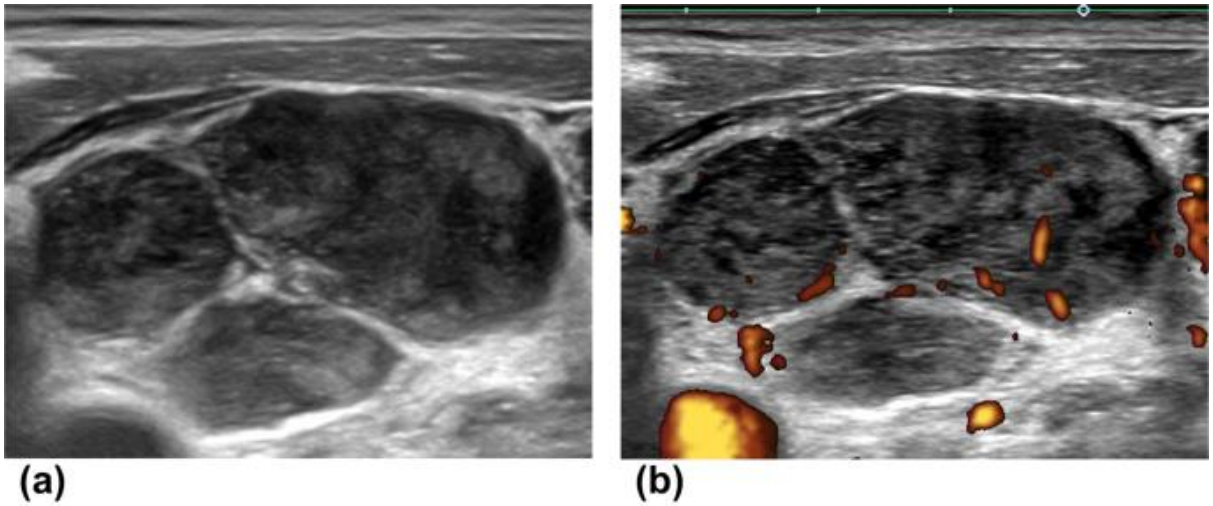

Figure 2. Images **a** (2D echo) and **b** (Doppler US) show an USS of multiple round cervical lymph nodes which have a characteristic echogenicity with indistinct borders and internal mixed vascularity. This patient was diagnosed with metastatic diffuse large B cell lymphoma.

The acquisition of these images should be preceded a by full head and neck examination and followed by a fine-needle aspiration to confirm diagnosis, and full body imaging to identify the primary malignancy and any further metastasis.