**Department of Surgery**
**2026 Research Day**
**6th May 2026 (Wednesday) | 7 am – Noon | MART Auditorium**

**Title:**
Schwannoma Presenting as an Asymptomatic Postauricular Mass

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**Background:**
Schwannomas are benign peripheral nerve sheath tumors originating from Schwann cells. They most commonly involve cranial nerves, while extracranial head and neck schwannomas rarely occur in the subcutaneous postauricular region. These tumors are slow-growing and often present as painless masses. Only one reported case of schwannoma of the great auricular nerve has been described, and S-100 immunostaining is used to confirm the diagnosis. We describe a rare schwannoma presenting as an asymptomatic postauricular mass.

**Methods:**
A female patient with sensorineural hearing loss and a five-year history of a nontender right postauricular mass was evaluated. Owing to a history of multiple myeloma and renal cancer, positron emission tomography was performed, and the lesion was observed for a year. Clinical examination, imaging and audiogram results were assessed. The patient subsequently underwent excision of the postauricular/mastoid mass. The excised lesion was sent for histopathology and immunohistochemistry including S-100 staining.

**Results (or Preliminary Results):**
During observation, the patient reported occasional headaches, fullness in the ears, increasing tenderness to the mass, and difficulty using the right hearing aid. Audiograms demonstrated stable sensorineural hearing loss. Surgical excision removed a 6 × 7 mm cystic lesion. Histopathology showed features consistent with schwannoma, and S-100 immunostaining was positive, confirming the diagnosis. There were no postoperative complications, and no further intervention was required.

**Conclusions (or Preliminary Conclusions):**
Schwannomas of the great auricular nerve are extremely rare and may present as painless postauricular masses. Because of their uncommon location, they may not be included in the initial differential diagnosis. This case underscores the importance of considering schwannoma when evaluating postauricular masses and highlights the value of early recognition and complete excision to achieve excellent outcomes. Additional research is needed to facilitate early diagnosis of rare schwannoma pathologies.