Multiple myeloma presenting as the Collet-Sicard syndrome

Multiple myeloma presenting with a neurological lesion is a well recognised phenomenon. Presentation with a cranial nerve lesion, however, is uncommon. This fifty two year old man presented with weight loss, fever, dehydration, and lesions involving the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th cranial nerves on the left side. This lesion complex is often referred to as the Collet-Sicard syndrome. A diagnosis of multiple myeloma was subsequently made. The patient later died of pneumonia.

Postmortem examination disclosed a soft, pink, extradural mass 2 x 2 x 1 cm entering into the adjacent apex of the petrous temporal bone (see arrow). Histological examination confirmed the mass as a myelomatous deposit.

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Neurological pictures of striking signs, radiographs, or micrographs may be submitted to the Editor.