

SIALOLITHIASIS

Sialoliths appear more often in the ductal system of the submandibular gland than in of the parotid gland. They may be anywhere along the length of the duct or within the gland itself and the stones vary greatly in size. Microscopically, there is a calcified mass with concentric laminations and usually metaplasia in the surrounding duct and periductal glandular inflammation.

Photo shows cross section of a calculus with concentric rings. The single arrows points to metaplastic squamous epithelium lining the submandibular duct and the small double arrows indicate a portion of the salivary gland with chronic inflammation.

CLINICAL ASPECTS

Clinical management of sialolithiasis may be as conservative as milking the duct to cause the stone to extrude or snipping off the ductal papillae and then pressing out the stone or in the case of a stone in the gland itself, or far back along the duct or in the case of a large stone, it may be necessary to remove the submandibular salivary gland.

