An unusual facial enlargement

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Question

A 39-year-old Caucasian homeless male sought medical attention because of bilateral dental pain that had developed over several weeks. He had a 15-year history of regular hemodialysis for chronic kidney disease complicated by secondary hyperparathyroidism. Clinical examination revealed

symmetrical enlargement of the mid face, which the patient said had been progressing over the last decade. Dental abscess was suspected as the cause of his pain. The patient reported a similar painful episode that occurred about a decade ago, for which a facial CT had been done, and had been reported as normal. Facial (Fig. 1) and thoracoabdominal (Fig. 2) CT scans were done.

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Fig. 1 Axial (a), coronal (b), and volume rendering (c) reconstructions of bone-windowed unenhanced facial CT scans show abscesses of the lower wisdom teeth,. In addition, there is symmetrical prominence of the facial bones with nodular zones of osteosclerosis and hyperostosis

particularly involving the mid face and the first two cervical vertebrae. This diffuse hypertrophic bone enlargement is better visualized on volume rendering reconstruction (c)

Fig. 2 Sagittal reconstruction of bone-windowed thoracoabdominal unenhanced CT scan