

**Dominique Paderin****Campus:** CHI-St Joseph Health Regional Hospital – Bryan, TX**Research Area:** Intraoral approach to a parapharyngeal space tumor in a patient presenting with obstructive sleep apnea**Mentor:** Nadia Mohyuddin, M.D. FACS

Dominique Paderin is a medical student from the Class 2025 at Texas A&M School of Medicine. She conducted research in head and neck cancer at the Houston Methodist Hospital's Department of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery under the guidance of [Nadia Mohyuddin, MD, FACS](#). There are several surgical approaches for the removal of parapharyngeal space tumors, with transoral approaches being the least frequently used due to the approach's inability to offer good control over major blood vessels and the possibility of incomplete tumor resection. The aim of our MSE project was to present an unusual course of discovery and treatment (using a transoral approach) for a parapharyngeal space tumor found in a patient presenting with obstructive sleep apnea symptoms. Given the incidental finding of the tumor intraoperatively, this case report documents the warranted successful implementation of the transoral surgical approach. This case also served to highlight the importance of having a high clinical index of suspicion for parapharyngeal space tumors in the context of patients presenting with obstructive breathing patterns.