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Supplementary Table 1. Patients initially investigated for a branchial cleft cyst or a Cancer of Unknown Primary of the head and neck region during 2016-2023 and excluded from the present study.

Excluded (n=182)¹			
Investigated for BrCC² (n=39)		Investigated for CUP³ (n=143)	
Neck fistula	6	Surgery cancelled because non-palpable at time of surgery	1
Other fistula	2	Lymphatic malformation	1
Laryngeal cyst	2	FNAC ⁴ showed suspected Warthin tumor in submandibular gland, patient moved – investigation incomplete	1
Benign parotid gland tumor	2	Panendoscopy + biopsies for known or suspected primary cancer	140
Thymus cyst	1		
UPPP	1		
Lymph node	4		
Lipoma	2		
Dermoid cyst	3		
Schwannoma	1		
Thyreoglossal neck cyst	4		
Myofibroma	1		
Subcutaneous cyst	2		
Atheroma	1		
Rhabdofibroma/myofibroma	2		
Lymphoepithelial cyst	5		

¹Initially, 557 patients were identified using the N the NOMESCO surgical procedure code ENB40 (for removal of the cystic lesion/BrCC), UEN02, 05, 12, 15 (Hypopharyngoscopy- and oropharyngoscopy with or without biopsy), UDH02, 05 (rhinopharyngoscopy with or without biopsy), UJC02 (rigid esophagoscopy) and ENB10 (tonsillectomy). Of these 182 were excluded and their details are presented in the Table above.

²Branchial cleft cyst, ³Cancer of unknown primary of the head and neck region, ⁴Fine needle aspirate cytology (FNAC)