

glands with or without hypofunction and xerostomia (Owotade, Fatusi, and Adebisi et al. 2005). In early lesions the submandibular and sublingual glands are often initially affected and enlarged. As the disease progresses, however, parotid gland swelling is more commonly noted. As many as 5–10% of patients with HIV-1 infection have been reported to have parotid swelling with the incidence increasing to approximately 20% in AIDS patients (Owotade, Fatusi, and Adebisi et al. 2005). Ryan and his group were the first to describe salivary gland involvement in HIV disease as intrasalivary gland lymphadenopathy (Ryan, Ioachim, and Marmer et al. 1985). Shortly thereafter, parotid gland cysts were reported and were noted to resemble the benign lymphoepithelial lesion (BLL) histologically (Colebunders, Francis, and Mann et al. 1988). The BLL is a benign sialadenopathy associated with Sjogren's syndrome with pathognomonic

epimyoepithelial islands. It is felt to represent an autoimmune reaction in Sjogren's syndrome, but the BLL is felt to be of unknown pathogenesis in HIV (Sperling, Lin, and Lucente 1990). It remains unclear whether lymphoepithelial cysts within parotid glands in HIV/AIDS patients develop from pre-existing salivary gland inclusions in intraparotid lymph nodes or from a lymphoepithelial lesion of the parenchyma of the salivary gland.

Treatment of lymphoepithelial cysts of the parotid gland in HIV/AIDS patients is a function of the size of the cysts, the patient's concern for cosmetics, and compliance with medical therapy. Following their original description, these cysts were managed in a variety of ways including periodic aspirations, simple excision of the cysts, and nerve-sparing superficial parotidectomy (Figure 4.13). Shaha and his group reported an early experience with 50 patients with lymphoepithelial cysts of the



Figures 4.13a and 4.13b. A 50-year-old HIV positive male presented in 1994 with obvious right parotid swelling. This time period pre-dated the development of HAART. Examination of the bilateral parotid gland regions revealed a large mass of the right parotid gland, and a smaller mass of the left parotid gland.