British woman coughs up oral tumour

COVENTRY, UK: A woman from Coventry has coughed up a cancerous tumour. According to reports, 57-year-old Claire Osborn had two coughing fits, both of which produced pieces of the tumour. It is believed that the lump, which is thought to have been growing on the back of her throat, became dislodged before the coughing fits.

Osborn took the 2 cm heart-shaped lump to the doctors. “I knew something was very wrong so I went straight to my GP,” Osborn was reported to have said. Scans showed that the tissue was in fact an aggressive throat and mouth cancer. Osborn was informed that there was a chance that the tumour may not be the only one in her body.

“I was devastated. I just thought I was going to die,” Osborn was reported to have said. However, doctors were amazed to find that the cancerous tumour was in fact the only one in her body and after a scan at University Hospital Coventry she was given the all clear. According to one report, Osborn said: “The consultant turned round to me and said ‘It appears you have coughed up your cancer. Congratulations!’.”

Fewer than 50 similar cases have ever been recorded in the world. Head and neck surgeon Gary Walton was reported to have said: “We suspect the tumour grew on a stalk at the back of her mouth which is very difficult to detect. Somehow she dislodged this, the stalk snapped and she coughed up the tumour.”

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