

Table 2. Suggested criteria for identifying patients with symptoms of PTA/PTC who may have a higher risk of having an underlying OPSCC. Significant smoking history – current smoker or total exposure more than 15 pack years; significant alcohol history – current alcohol intake of more than 20 units per week or any history of previous heavy alcohol intake

Symptoms	Persistent unilateral sore throat for three weeks or more; symptoms may fail to respond to appropriate antibiotic treatment
Age	40 years or older <i>Or</i> 30 years or older, with significant smoking or alcohol history
Examination on discharge from hospital	Tonsillar asymmetry Focal tonsillar lesion