



PLEOMORPHIC ADENOMA PRE-OPERATIVELY MIMICKING MUCOEPIDERMOID CARCINOMA OF PAROTID

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ABSTRACT

Salivary gland tumors are quite rare, and the majority of them are benign. Pleomorphic adenoma and mucoepidermoid carcinoma (MEC) are the most frequent benign and malignant tumors, respectively, at the time of diagnosis. Though it happens frequently, it can be challenging to distinguish between the histopathological entities, creating a diagnostic conundrum that may have an influence on a patient's therapy and prognosis. If MEC was determined to be the cause, neck dissection and adjuvant therapy may have been necessary, increasing the risk of morbidity and mortality. This instance underscores the significance of a thorough tissue biopsy for parotid gland tumors in order to optimize a patient's treatment strategy.

KEYWORDS : pleomorphic adenoma, biphasic tumor, fine needle aspiration cytology (fnac), mucoepidermoid carcinoma, enucleation

INTRODUCTION

Only 20% of parotid gland tumors are malignant, with 80% of them being benign. However, among the malignancies of the parotid gland, mucoepidermoid tumors are the most prevalent malignancy. The facial nerve has been involved late. An unencapsulated solid tumor with cystic gaps is what it is. Tumors with low grade mucin secreting cells, intermediate grade clear cells, and high grade epidermoid cells are all microscopic features.

Case Study –

This is a single case report of a 35-year-old woman who has had parotid swelling without facial nerve involvement for one year. The cytology result from the preoperative fine needle aspiration revealed a pleomorphic adenoma. Her material was sent for histological analysis after undergoing a superficial parotidectomy.

Postoperative Findings –

After surgery, a histological analysis revealed an impression of intermediate-grade mucoepidermoid carcinoma, and the patient was sent to a higher centre for radiotherapy for continued management.



The parotid gland and minor salivary glands are most frequently affected by mucoepidermoid carcinoma, the most frequent malignant salivary gland tumor. Females, often adults in their fourth to sixth decades, are found to be slightly more susceptible to developing it. The excretory ducts of glandular structures, where pluripotent cells are found, are assumed to be its source. Clinically, it appears as a gradually growing lump that is painless and mimics a benign tumor such as a pleomorphic adenoma.

CONCLUSION –

Never disregard parotid gland tumors under the assumption that they are benign. In this case report, the patient was referred for radiotherapy because of prompt surgery and a thorough post-operative histological study that correctly identified the patient's malignancy. The patient's prognosis was improved by adequate management, resulting in a higher quality of life.

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