

# Sarcomatoid Squamous Cell Carcinoma of Uterine Cervix: Pap Smear, Pathology and Treatment



## Medical Science.

**KEYWORDS :** Cervix, Pap smear, Sarcomatoid carcinoma

**HAKEEM A**

DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY & OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

**NAZNEEN F**

DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY & OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

### ABSTRACT

*Sarcomatoid squamous cell carcinoma of cervix is a rare tumor. Only 20 cases have so far been reported in literature. We report here one such tumor occurring in 52 year old post menopausal women. Our case report describes the clinical, Pap smear and pathological characteristics of this tumor.*

### INTRODUCTION:

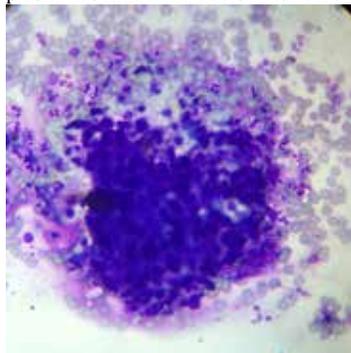
Sarcomatoid squamous cell carcinoma (SSCC) is a rare malignancy of cervix. Till date, only 20 cases of SSCC of cervix have been reported in the literature.<sup>1</sup> It differs from squamous cell carcinoma of the cervix in terms of having a poorer prognosis.<sup>1</sup> Patients often present with more advanced stages and follow a very aggressive course of disease.<sup>2</sup> Because of the rarity of the disease, no standard diagnostic and treatment approach is available. Most of the cases are managed as squamous cell carcinoma and treated with either surgery or radiotherapy.<sup>2</sup>

### CASE PRESENTATION (CLINICAL DETAILS)

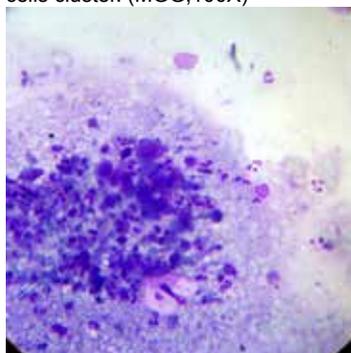
A 52 year old post menopausal women, presented with blood stained discharge per vagina of 1 month duration. She also had complaints of mild pain in her lower back. On per speculum examination, the cervix was thickened and ulcerated. Pap smears slides taken out and sent for examination.

### PAP SMEAR:

Smears showed adequate cellularity comprised of superficial and intermediate squamous cells. Also seen clusters of spindled shaped atypical cells and round to ovoid pleomorphic cells with pleomorphic hyper chromatic nuclei. A diagnosis of severe dysplasia was made and advised for cervical biopsy.



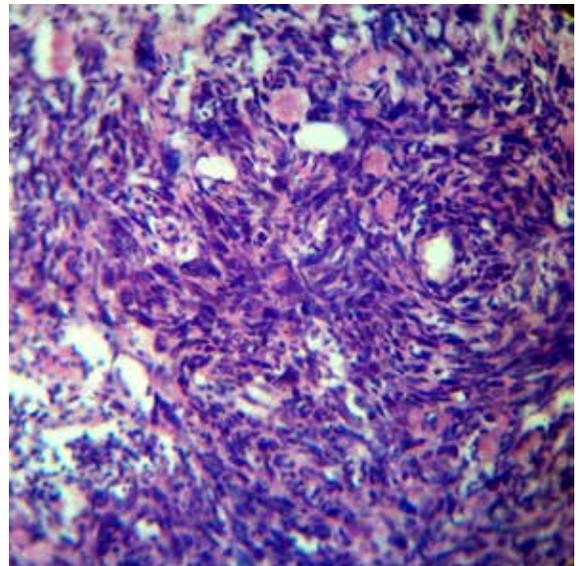
1. Photomicrograph of Pap smear showing atypical spindle cells cluster. (MGG,100X)



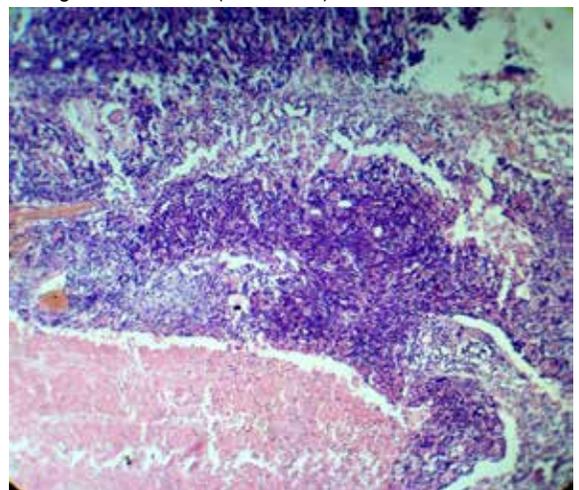
2. Photomicrograph of Pap smear showing pleomorphic round to ovoid and atypical spindle cells. (MGG,400X)

### HISTOPATHOLOGICAL FINDINGS:

Histopathological study showed a tumor tissue having highly cellular epithelial cells And spindle shaped cells arranged in short fascicles. The spindle shaped tumor cells are Having pleomorphic hyperchromatic nuclei. Also seen large areas of necrosis – A diagnosis Of Sarcomatoid carcinoma of cervix were made.



3. Photomicrograph showing atypical spindle cells clusters arranged in fascicles. (H&E,400X)



4. Photomicrograph showing atypical spindle cells clusters and areas of necrosis. (H&E,100X)

### DISCUSSION:

Squamous cell carcinoma accounts for over 85% of cervical can-

cer pathology; other histological types, such as Adenocarcinoma, Carcinosarcoma, Lymphoma and Sarcoma account for the rest. Sarcomatoid carcinoma is a very rare pathological entity of the female genital tract and even more rare in the cervix. It has been described more frequently in the aero digestive tract and skin. In the English literature search for cervical sarcomatoid carcinoma, only 19 cases were found.<sup>2</sup> Sarcomatoid squamous cell carcinoma of uterine cervix is a rare tumor with uncertain pathogenesis. The rarity of this neoplasm makes it difficult to diagnose and manage, and it seems to be an aggressive tumor with a short disease free survival.<sup>3</sup> Brown et al reported the largest series of 9 cases of sarcomatoid carcinomas of the cervix with a median disease free interval of 4.9 months. Only one patient survived for 40 months. In this series, although all patients had a complete response to initial therapy, more than half of patients had recurrences of the disease in less than 5 months after initial treatment. None of them respond to second line therapy.<sup>2</sup> Line et al reported a case of sarcomatoid squamous cell carcinoma of the cervix being HPV – 16 positive and lack of p53 over expression was reported in the components of both spindle cells and squamous cells, suggesting the tumor cells with spindle cell morphology are derived from the squamous cells.<sup>2</sup> Hay-Roe et al found that the epithelial position of SSCC of the esophagus had an apparent tendency to become spindle in tissue culture. This was also reported by Sherwin et al which also stated there is probable loss of unity of the epithelial cells in the basal layer and this was major feature causing the spindle cell transfor-

mation.<sup>4</sup> Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the cervix is an aggressive neoplasm. Primary treatment offers the best chance of cure in women with early stage disease. Patients with advanced disease at presentation or recurrence succumb to their disease.<sup>5</sup>

#### CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, it seems that Sarcomatoid carcinomas have a more aggressive clinical behaviour with a very short interval for disease progression in comparison with squamous cell carcinoma of the cervix. Reporting such cases might help clinicians to understand this entity of cervical cancer. We do believe that sarcomatoid carcinoma should be considered as a high grade carcinoma, but with early diagnosis (Pap smear, cervical biopsy) and aggressive treatment (hysterectomy, chemotherapy & radiotherapy) have best chance of cure in early stage of disease.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

The work was indeed a mammoth task to accomplish and would not have been possible without active co-operation, constant strategic support and encouragement by our beloved – DEAN- (ESIC MEDICAL COLLEGE GULBARGA)—DR. M CHANDRASHEKHAR

## REFERENCE

1. Kumar et al. Sarcomatoid squamous cell carcinoma of uterine cervix: Pathology, imaging, and treatment. *J Cancer Res Ther* - March 2008;4(1):39-41 | 2. Tahani H, Nageeti, Raid A Jastania. Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the cervix. *Ann Saudi Med.* 2012; 32(5) 541-543 | 3. Kong TW, Kim JH, Chang KH. Sarcomatoid squamous cell carcinoma of the uterine cervix successfully treated by laparoscopic radical hysterectomy: a case report. *J Reprod Med.* 2010;55(9):445-448 | 4. Hacker N. *Gynecologic Oncology*. 5th Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins, ISBN, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. 2010:56-64 | 5. Brown J, Broadus R, Koller M. Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the cervix. *Gynecol Oncol.* 2003;90(1):23-28 |