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Case Report

Mucoepidermoid Carcinoma: Unusual Localisation

Zouhair Najib *, Youssef Oukessou, Sami Rouadi, Redalah Elarabi Abada, Mohamed Roubal and Mohamed Mahtar

Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Hospital of 20 August, Casablanca, Morocco

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Mucoepidermoid carcinoma (MEC) is a rare malignant tumor that develops from the salivary glands. Its treatment includes surgery associated or not with radiotherapy depending on the histological grade. We report the case of a 38-year-old patient.

Methods: We report a case of a mucoepidermoid carcinoma of the palate, and we specify the clinical, therapeutic and progressive characteristics of this attack.

Case Report: She is a 38-year-old woman with no significant medical history. The clinical examination revealed a localized mass at the level of the hard palate, with a smooth normal-looking mucosa measuring 4 cm in long axis, the rest of the clinical examination was normal. Pathology examination confirmed the diagnosis of low-grade CME. Magnetic resonance imaging was performed objectifying a lesion localized at the level of the submucosa of the palate without bone extension either to the tongue or to the nasal cavity. The treatment consisted in excision of the lesion with margin, with monthly monitoring for 6 months with good progress.

Conclusion: The discovery of a CME in young patients is rare. This observation makes it possible to take stock of the management of this type of cancer according to histological characteristics.

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Introduction

Mucoepidermoid carcinoma (MEC) is an epithelial salivary gland neoplasm. About 5% of these occur in younger age group usually less than 18 years with female predominance [1, 2]. It is composed of mucus, squamous, and intermediate type of cells [3]. About two-third of MEC arise within the parotid gland, and one-third develops within the minor salivary glands. When it develops in minor salivary glands, it can be located on the palate, retromolar area, floor of the mouth, buccal mucosa, lips, and tongue. It most frequently occurs in the fifth and sixth decades of life [3].

Case Report

A 38-year-old woman with no significant medical history. Reporting the appearance of a swelling in the level of the hard palate. Intraoral examination revealed a localized mass at the level of the hard palate, with a smooth normal-looking mucosa measuring 4cm in long axis, the

rest of the clinical examination was normal. No toothache, pain, altered taste, sensation, numbness, pus discharge, bleeding from nose, trauma, extraction or weight loss (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Macroscopic aspect of the mass.

Incisional biopsy was done pathology examination confirmed the diagnosis of low-grade CME. Magnetic resonance imaging was performed objectifying a lesion localized at the level of the submucosa of the palate without bone extension either to the tongue or to the nasal cavity (Figure 2).

*Correspondence to: Dr. Zouhair Najib, Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Hospital of 20 august, Casablanca, Morocco, Tel: 00212656392775; E-mail: najib_zouhair@hotmail.fr

