

Case Report

Giant pleomorphic adenoma of parotid gland

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ABSTRACT

Salivary gland tumors are rare, comprising less than 3% of all neoplasia of head and neck region. Pleomorphic adenomas are the most common benign neoplasms of the parotid gland. The vast majority are 2-6cms in size, when resected. Untreated pleomorphic adenomas can enlarge in size and weigh several kilograms. There are only few cases of giant pleomorphic adenomas reported in the literature. Here we present one of such case.

Keywords: Giant pleomorphic adenoma, Parotid gland

INTRODUCTION

Salivary gland tumors are rare, comprising less than 3% of all neoplasia of head and neck region. Pleomorphic adenomas are the most common benign neoplasms of the parotid gland. The vast majority are 2-6cms in size, when resected. Untreated pleomorphic adenomas can enlarge in size and weigh several kilograms. There are only few cases of giant pleomorphic adenomas reported in the literature. Here we present one of such case.

CASE REPORT

A 70 years old female in the year 2010 attended the surgical outpatient department with a huge swelling over right side of the face (Figure 1), which enlarged gradually over a period of 20 years. There was history of surface ulceration with foul smelling discharge since 5 months. There were no features suggestive of facial palsy. Fine needle aspiration cytology on repeated aspirations showed features of pleomorphic adenoma. Later the mass was excised. On gross examination the mass was nodular, solid cystic measuring 28x20x9 cm and weighed 2.1 kgs. Multiple sections from the tumor tissue showed extensive areas of hyalinization with

chondroid areas and scanty epithelial component (Figure 2). No nuclear atypia and atypical mitosis was observed. The diagnosis of giant pleomorphic adenoma was offered.



Figure 1: Photograph showing huge nodular swelling with surface ulceration over the right side of the face in an elderly female.

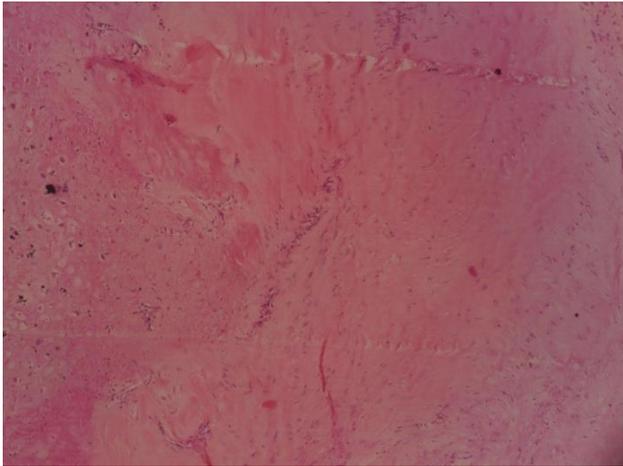


Figure 2: Photomicrograph showing prominent hyaline change with chondroid stroma. (H&E 100x).

DISCUSSION

The largest benign mixed tumor recorded in the modern language English literature is 26cms in diameter.¹ The weight of the tumor can vary from several grams to more than 8kgs and the weight appears to increase with duration of tumor.² In our case the resected tumor was measuring 28x20x9cms in dimensions and weighed 2.1kgs.

Malignant change was found in 10% of 31 giant pleomorphic adenoma cases reviewed by Schultz-Coulon.³ Generally malignant transformation can be suspected with a sudden increase in growth, pain, ulceration, spontaneous bleeding, superficial and deep tissue invasion.⁴ The incidence of malignancy frequently shows a correlation between the length of the history of pleomorphic adenoma (average-23 years) and the

development of carcinoma.⁵ Our patient had extensive ulceration of size 12x10 cm but histopathology did not show any evidence of malignant change. Post operative period was uneventful and is doing well till date except for mild facial nerve palsy.

Long standing tumors may show malignant change. Therefore, early diagnosis and treatment of pleomorphic adenoma is essential.

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