

The palate: Squamous cell carcinoma

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Abstract

Squamous cell carcinoma of the palate is a rarity throughout the world. Indeed, Internet search revealed an occasional case from countries as far apart as Brazil, India, Sweden, Taiwan, Turkey, and USA. Therefore, it is deemed necessary to contribute one case from Nigeria.

Keywords: Palate; Malignancy; Lymphoma; Literature; Nigeria

Introduction

Searching of the literature has revealed the example of countries from which cases of palatal squamous cell carcinoma were reported, namely, Brazil (1) India (2), Sweden (3), Taiwan (4), Turkey (5), and USA (6). Therefore, it is deemed necessary to contribute a typical case from Nigeria.

Case report

OG, a 68-year-old man, complained of a palatal mass of one year duration at the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, Enugu. He was seen by Dr C. Oji who found a sessile bleeding mass causing pain and disturbing both mastication and speech [1]. Investigations included surgical biopsy. Several irregular masses up to 4 cm across were sent to the author. Ulcerated mucosal growths were discerned. On microscopy, there was an underlying epithelial malignancy in which typical cell nests were striking. Therefore, squamous cell carcinoma was diagnosed.

Discussion

An Indian managed 62 years also had the chief complaint of growth on the palate sine one month [2]. These data compare favorably with the local ones. Another single case report was from Taiwan [4]. He was a little younger at 55 years. At follow up for 5 years, he has remained well. In contrast, numerous patients were treated elsewhere ranging from 32 in USA [6] to 123 in Sweden [3]. These cases included treatment unlike the author's patient whose follow up was not supplied. This naturally took place because this series on the Igbo ethnic group [7] followed the pattern set by a Birmingham (UK) group to the effect that the establishment of a histopathology data pool facilitates

epidemiological analysis [8]. Incidentally, it was at a time debated whether distant doctors could benefit from a central laboratory in Britain [9]. I am satisfied, as was demonstrated elsewhere, that the local experience is satisfactory [10,11].

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