

The Palate: Undifferentiated Carcinoma

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Abstract

Internet search revealed a case report on undifferentiated carcinoma. Therefore, it was compared with cases observed among the Igbos, an ethnic group domiciled in South Eastern Nigerian.

Keywords: Palate; Undifferentiated carcinoma; Literature; Epidemiology

Introduction

In pursuit of studies on the palate, an interesting case was found as a POSTER in the Journal of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery recently [1]. Accordingly, 6 cases observed among the Igbos [2], an ethnic group domiciled in South Eastern Region of Nigeria, are presented. They were deemed to be worthy of documentation, especially as the practitioners were expected to supply provisional diagnosis.

Investigation

The point was made not long ago that the founding of a histopathology data pool facilitates epidemiological analysis [3]. In this Nigerian study, the author was the pioneer pathologist from 1970 and kept personal copies of all the materials. Their tabulation is necessary here.

Results

The tabular form is preferred (Table 1).

Table 1: Epidemiological data.

| No | Initials | Age | Sex | Provisional Diagnosis |
|----|----------|-----|-----|-----------------------|
| 1 | OC | 50 | F | Carcinoma |
| 2 | NB | 55 | M | Malignancy |
| 3 | MI | 39 | M | Carcinoma |
| 4 | AE | 48 | F | Mucoepidermoid tumor |
| 5 | OE | 48 | M | Carcinoma |
| 6 | NV | 56 | M | Carcinoma |

Discussion

The POSTER example concerned a man 77 years old; his undifferentiated carcinoma developed in the right palate region. It markedly responded to both radiotherapy and chemotherapy. In contrast, all the local cases concerned only the presentation and not the treatment. In terms of age, the local patients were all relatively young and ranged from 39 years to 56 years (average 48 years). Incidentally, all the cases were suspected to have been malignant. The status of undifferentiated carcinoma arose typically thus: "a malignant epithelial tumor is apparent, the differentiation not being evident." Certainly, the appearances differed from adenocystic carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma and mucoepidermoid carcinoma. Similarly, the series included the albino with 3 differentiated growths in the same slide [4]. Also, it is reminiscent of the triple lung cancer reported long ago [5].

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