Cribriform adenocarcinoma of the tongue and minor salivary glands: importance of reclassification and presentation of atypical behavior in broad follow up

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Abstract

This work shows the importance of the reclassification of a group of Polymorphous low grade adenocarcinoma (PLGA) to Cribriform adenocarcinoma of the tongue and minor salivary glands (CATMSG) and present a report of a case of this entity, with an unknown behavior, with a large following.

Key words:

Cribriform Adenocarcinoma of the Tongue and Minor Salivary Glands, Histopathological Reclassification, Behavior.

Introduction

Cribriform adenocarcinoma of the tongue and minor salivary glands (CATMSG) is an entity described in 1999, previously diagnosed (most of the cases reviewed) as polymorphous low grade adenocarcinoma (PLGA). The tongue is the main primary site and believed it to be the only one, but were confirmed new cases in different parts of the oral cavity. The similarities observed in more than 40 patients are described: presence initial cervical metastasis or progression of the disease; morphology resembling the solid and follicular variants of papillary thyroid carcinoma. **OBJECTIVE:** To show the importance of the reclassification of a group of PLGA to CATMSG and present an unknown behavior of the new entity with a large following.

Results and Discussion

REPORT: Male, 78 years old, with ulcerated mass in the left soft palate, measuring 5cm diameter with unknown outcome. The diagnosis of biopsy was PLGA and after clinical staging, the patient underwent partial maxillectomy. Histopathological examination of the surgical specimen showed neoplasm composed of a single cell type, infiltrating and without capsule, consisting primarily of solid and papillary structures. The tumor parenchyma was divided by fibrous septa and nests formed sometimes were separated from the surrounding fibrous stroma by slots (presumably artifactual), giving a glomeruloid appearance. The nuclei showed often overlapping each other, and pale with frosted glass appearance. Lightweight cellular atypia and no mitosis were observed, while the nucleoli were inconspicuous. The patient developed eight metastases over the 11 years of evolution (cervical and regional) and died of other causes, but with the presence of disease. **Conclusion:** To the best of our knowledge, the first time present the aggressive nature still unknown this new entity with extensive monitoring corroborating the understanding of this neoplasm. Moreover, this case shows the importance of the reclassification of tumors.

Conclusions

To the best of our knowledge, we present, by the first time, the aggressive behavior, still unknown, of this new entity with extensive monitoring, corroborating to the understanding of this neoplasm. Moreover, this case shows the importance of the reclassification of tumors.

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Conflict of interest disclosure

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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