A Clinical Study on 58 Cases of Submandibular Gland Tumors

Noriko Kobayashi1), Akira Shimizu2), Kouichi Kitamura2),
Hiroyuki Ito2) and Mamoru Suzuki2)

The present study analyzed 58 patients with submandibular gland tumors treated from April 1988 to March 2008 at the Department of Otorhinolaryngology of Tokyo Medical University Hospital. Forty six tumors were benign and were all pleomorphic adenoma. Twelve tumors were malignant. Six of the malignant tumors were adenoid cystic carcinoma.

The two patients with the malignant tumors had tenderness as a clinical sign. Even if the tumor was small, we should regard tenderness as a malignant sign.

Surgical complications were found in 36.2%, comprising facial nerve paralysis, dysgeusia and numbness of the tongue. Facial nerve paralysis which developed in the benign tumors was temporary. Permanent paralysis was noted in 33.3% in the malignant tumors.

Some of the tumors with low malignancy recurred or developed distant metastasis. Our findings suggest that we cannot control even low malignancy tumors with surgery alone and we need strict follow-up after surgery.

Keywords: submandibular gland tumor, pleomorphic adenoma, adenoid cystic carcinoma

References
Patient age and gender
Benign tumors: 46 cases
Malignant tumors: 12 cases
All patients were 40 years old or more in the malignant tumors group

Clinical symptoms
There were 25 cases where benign tumors increased in size.
All malignant tumors increased in size. Two patients complained of pain.

Pathology of malignant tumors
The number of cases of adenoid cystic carcinoma was the highest.