A Case of Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma Ex Pleomorphic Adenoma

Koichiro Wasano1,2, Yuichi Ikari3, Sayuri Hashiguchi1, Noriomi Suzuki1 and Taiji Kawasaki1, Hiroyuki Ozawa2

Malignant tumors of the minor salivary glands are very rare and most cases occur in the oral cavity, e.g., the palate, tongue, cheek and lip. We report herein on an extremely rare case of carcinoma ex pleomorphic adenoma arising in the fossa of Rosenmuller.

An 83-year-old man, who had consulted another clinic with a complaint of hemosputum, was referred to our hospital because of the presence of a nasopharyngeal tumor. The tumor was resected via a transnasal endoscopic procedure without any major complications. The tumor was found to have arisen in the fossa of Rosenmuller and extended to superior lateral side behind the Eustachian tube cartilage.

Histological examination showed that the main part of the tumor consisted of a pleomorphic adenoma, however, capsular invasion, nuclear atypia and mitosis were observed in a limited area where the MIB-1 index was high. We diagnosed the lesion as a carcinoma ex pleomorphic adenoma.

We did not perform any postoperative therapy, because the area containing malignancy was far from the surgical margin and the patient was rather elderly.

Three years and 10 months after the surgery, he remains in follow-up and has not shown any recurrence of the tumor.

Keywords: carcinoma ex pleomorphic adenoma, nasopharynx, rosenmuller, minor salivary glands

References


1) Department of Otolaryngology, Japanese Red Cross Shizuoka Hospital
2) Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, Keio University School of Medicine
3) Department of Otolaryngology, Kawasaki Municipal Hospital

Corresponding Author Address: Koichiro Wasano wasano@a5.keio.jp
Endoscopic findings of the nasopharynx from the left nasal cavity
A dark blue tumor is seen arising from the fossa of Rosenmüller with coagulum adhering to the inferior medial side of the tumor.

MRI images (axial)
The tumor is isointense on T1-weighted MRI (a), shows a mixed signal (from hypo- to hyperintense) on T2-weighted MRI (b), and is irregularly enhanced with Gadolinium (c).

Histopathologic examination
a. H&E stain. This region shows typical findings of pleomorphic adenoma.
b. H&E stain. This region shows findings of malignancy (nuclear atypia and mitosis).
c. MIB-1 stain. About 70% of all cells are positive for MIB-1.