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Salivary Glands, Recent Developments 2

Alena Skálová, MD, PhD
Charles University in Prague
Medical Faculty in Pilsen
Ed. Benese 13
305 99 Pilsen, Czech Republic

ABSTRACT

The review describes the new findings on salivary gland pathology. Newly recognized entities include sclerosing polycystic adenosis (SPA) initially believed to be reactive/inflammatory lesion similar to fibrocystic disease of breast. Recent molecular study using the HUMARA (human androgen receptor assay) for clonality analysis demonstrated that SPA is clonal, and thus most likely neoplastic process (1).

Mammary analogue secretory carcinoma (MASC) of salivary glands was recently described as a new entity characterized histologically by resemblance to secretory breast cancer (2). It was demonstrated that MASCs harbour a recurrent balanced chromosomal translocation t(12;15)(p13;q25), which leads to a fusion gene between the *ETV6* gene from chromosome 12 and the *NTRK3* gene from chromosome 15, exactly as in secretory breast cancer (2).

Cribriform adenocarcinoma of the tongue (CAT) is an infiltrative tumor that occurs almost exclusively in the base of the tongue (3). Despite overlapping histological and immunohistochemical features with polymorphous low grade adenocarcinoma of minor salivary glands, CAT represents genuine entity with high frequency of cervical lymph node metastasis at presentation (3).

Keratocystoma is a very rare benign parotid gland tumor of children and young adults. Histologically, it is composed of multilocular cysts lined by bland looking squamous epithelium with parakeratotic layer (4).

In addition, old salivary gland tumor entities with new findings were included, such as salivary duct carcinoma with newly recognized morphological variants (5,6), and proposal of molecular classification (7). Finally, „dedifferentiation" or high grade transformation of salivary carcinomas is discussed. In recent years, a variety of low grade salivary carcinomas have been documented to progress to high grade carcinoma with consequent aggressive clinical behavior (8,9).

References

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