

ONCOCYTIC CARCINOMA OF THE SUBMANDIBULAR GLAND, FROM BENIGN TO MALIGNANT - A REPORT ON AN UNUSUAL CASE

Jenny Que¹, Li-Ching Lin¹, Wen-Ying Lee², Kue-Li Lin¹, Chia-Hui Lin¹,
Yu-Wei Lin¹, Ching-Chieh Yang¹

Department of Radiation Oncology¹, Department of Pathology², Chi Mei Medical Center, Yung Kang campus

Purpose : Oncocytomas are very rare tumors that are usually benign and typically occur in the parotid gland. Oncocytic carcinomas are even more uncommon, comprising only approximately 5% of all oncocytomas. In a critical review of the international medical literature, only a few cases of oncocytic carcinoma of submandibular gland were found. Even more unusual was the fact in this case, it arose from a previously benign oncocytoma. We describe this case of submandibular oncocytoma transforming into a malignancy associated with regional lymph node metastases.

Patient and Methods : A rare case of 51 year-old man with malignant oncocytoma is presented. The tumor was found in the left submandibular gland with regional lymph node enlargement.

Results and Conclusion : Oncocytic carcinoma appears to arise from benign oncocytomas, or may also arise de novo. In oncocytic carcinoma of the head and neck, the presence of distant, rather than local lymph node, metastasis is the most important prognostic indicator. Therapy consists of surgical resection and radiotherapy but the efficacy of radiotherapy, and chemotherapy are still unclear.

[Therapeut Radiol Oncol 2010; 17(2): 161-167]

Key words: Oncocytic carcinoma, Submandibular gland, Radiotherapy

INTRODUCTION

Oncocytoma, which originate from oncocytes are very rare neoplasm that account for less than 1% of all salivary gland tumors [8]. Oncocytic carcinomas are even more uncommon, comprising only approximately 5% of all oncocytomas [1, 8]. Most of these carcinomas occur in parotid glands.

They mostly arise de novo or, more rarely they arise from benign oncocytomas. In a critical review of international medical literature, only 11 cases of oncocytic carcinomas of the submandibular gland were reported. We describe a case of oncocytic carcinoma of the submandibular gland arising from a previously benign tumor

Received: 2009, 7, 6. Accepted: 2009, 9, 28.

Address reprint request to: Jenny Que, M.D., Department of Radiation Oncology, Chi Mei Medical Center, Yung Kang campus., No. 901, Zhonghua Rd., Yongkang City, Tainan County 710, Taiwan