

## OCCURRENCE OF SALIVARY GLANDS TUMOURS A FIFTEEN YEARS EXPERIENCE

*Sajjad Ahmad, Abdul Wahid, Iftikhar Qayum & Muhammad /drees*

*This is an analysis of 35 salivary gland tumours from local tumour registry<sup>1</sup> showing early age female predilection. Twenty out of 35 (57.14%) cases were female. 15/35 (42.86%) cases were male. The ages ranged between 15 to 80 years with maximum number of cases (21/35, 60%) in the age group below 40 years and mostly female (57%).*

### INTRODUCTION

Salivary gland tumours are a heterogeneous group of neoplastic disorders with variable morphological appearances

The major salivary glands are affected more commonly than the minor. Parotid gland is the most common site for neoplastic conversion<sup>2</sup>.

Pleomorphic adenoma is the most common variant of this group of neoplasms<sup>3</sup>. It is a tumour of diverse histological patterns commonly consisting of cuboidal cells arranged in groups and duct-like structures resembling normal ductal epithelium. The tumour cells also assume stellate, polyhedral or spindle forms. The stroma consists of loose, myxoid and cellular connective tissue with cartilaginous and bony tissue differentiation at places. Collection of mucoid material is also sometimes seen.

The disease has female preponderance and the age group is usually above 40 years<sup>4</sup>.

The present study presents analysis of 35 neoplastic lesions of salivary glands from local tumour registry of Pathology Department, Ayub Medical College, Abbottabad. The study is first of its kind from this region of the country.

### MATERIALS & METHODS

The study consists of analysis of 35 cases of neoplastic lesions from 15 years tumour registry (1981-96) of Pathology Department of Ayub Medical College, Abbottabad. Specimens were obtained and processed as routine surgical histopathology material. This is a simple database analysis using W.H.O. criteria for classification of tumours.

### RESULTS

**Twenty** out of 35 (57.14%) cases were female. 15/35 (42.86%) cases were male. The ages ranged between 15 to 80 years with maximum number of cases (21/35, 60%) in the age group below 40 years and mostly female (57%) (Table-1).

**Table SALIVARY GLAND TUMOURS (AGE-SEX DISTRIBUTION)**

Age Group (Years)	SEX Male	SEX Female	Total
0-20	2	2	4
21 - 40	7	10	17
41 - 60	4	8	12
61 +	2	-	2
Total	15	20	35

The majority of the tumours (88.5%) were of major salivary gland origin. Larger number (22/31, 70.9%) of these tumours belonged to parotid gland. Only 4 (11.5%) tumours were of minor salivary gland origin (Table-2).

Twenty-seven (77.5%) cases were diagnosed as pleomorphic adenoma, majority of which (14) were of parotid gland origin. The next common histological type was mucoepidermoid carcinoma (3/35). There were two undifferentiated carcinomas, both of parotid gland origin (Table-2).

### DISCUSSION

The present study is the first reported series of salivary gland tumours from this department, which provides diagnostic facilities to whole of Hazara Division (comprising of 4 districts), Northern Areas, parts of Swat valley and some portions of Azad Kashmir.

In the present study parotid gland is the most common site (Table-2) which is similar to the reported series of salivary gland tumours in Africa and other countries of the world<sup>14</sup>. In this study majority of the tumours (88.5%) are of major salivary gland origin while about 12% are from minor salivary glands (Table-2).

In African countries major salivary glands contribute 80% while rest 20% are from minor salivary glands<sup>4</sup>.

From Ayub Medical College, Abbottabad-Pakistan.  
**SAJJAD AHMAD**, Associate Professor, Pathology.  
**ABDUL WAHID**, Assistant. Professor, Dentistry.  
**IFTIKHAR QAYUM**, Senior Lecturer, Pathology.  
**MUHAMMAD IDREES**, Lecturer, Pathology.

**Table-2: OCCURRENCE OF MAJOR AND MINOR SALIVARY GLAND TUMOURS**

Type of Tumour	Parotid Gland	Submandibular Gland	Sublingual Glands	Minor Glands	Total
Pleomorphic Adenoma	14	6	3	4	27
Papillary cystadenolymphomatosum	1	-	-	-	1
Mucoepidermoid carcinoma	3	-	-	-	3
Undifferentiated carcinoma	2	-	-	-	2
Adenoid cystic carcinoma	1	-	-	-	1
Capillary haemangioma	1	-	-	-	1
Total	22	6	3	4	35

Pleomorphic adenoma is the most common (77%) benign tumour, while the most common malignant type is mucoepidermoid carcinoma (Table-2). This is similar to other studies published in the world<sup>4,5,6</sup>. However, the common age group in this study is below 40 years of age (Table-1).

#### REFERENCES

1. Shafer W G, Hine MK & Levy B M. Pathology 4th ed. W.B. Saunders Philadelphia (1983).
2. John, M K. Andersons Pathology. 9th ed. C.V. Mosby, Philadelphia (1990).
3. Gleaven E N, Whittaker J & Nicholson A. Salivary Tumours. Experience over thirty years Clinotolaryngol, 1979; 4: 247-57.
4. Onyango J F, Awange D O, Muthamia J M & Muga B I. Salivary glands tumours in Kegga. East-Afr-Med-J. 1992; 69:525-30.
5. Sangupta S K, Banerjee A K & Data B N. Primary tumour of salivary glands; analysis of 111 tumours. Indian. J. Pathol-Bacterial, 1973; 16:32-40.
6. Shrikhande S & Sirsat M V. Histological differences between benign and malignant mucoepidermoid tumours of salivary glands. Indian-J-Cancer, 1970; 7:200-6.