

CARCINOMA OF ORAL CAVITY AND OROPHARYNX IN SMOKELESS TOBACCO USERS OF ALL AGE GROUPS

Abdul Wahid & Sajjad Ahmad

Fifty cases clinically presenting with ulcerative lesions in oral cavity and oropharynx were biopsied. All cases histologically revealed carcinoma. The study included 25 males and 25 females. The age range was from below 20 years to above 50 years. There were 2 cases in age group up to 20 years, both were females. The maximum number of cases (28/50) was in age group 41-60 years. All cases had positive history of oral tobacco use in the form of naswar of variable duration and quantity. All the cases clinically presented with ulcerative lesions. The maximum number of cases was carcinoma gum (14/50). The next common site was tongue (10/50 cases). There were 7 cases of carcinoma of oropharynx. Histologically 48/50 cases were of squamous cell carcinomas of varying grades of differentiation. There was one malignant melanoma and one Adenocarcinoma.

INTRODUCTION

Carcinoma of oral cavity and oropharynx is the second commonest malignancy in both sexes in Pakistan¹. It is among the ten commonest cancers in the world². A number of aetiological factors are involved in the causation of this malignancy, including tobacco use alcohol consumption, syphilis, chronic trauma and nutritional deficiencies^(3,7). However there is strongest association of use of smokeless tobacco with oral carcinoma, which includes snuff, naswar and betel quid with tobacco^(8,10).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study included 50 cases (25 males, 25 females) with ulcerative lesions in oral cavity oropharynx reported at dentistry department of Ayub Medical College Teaching Hospital. The cases were clinically examined and interrogated for chewing habits, for use of smokeless tobacco. The suspected areas were biopsied. The specimens were fixed in 10% buffered formalin and sent to Pathology department of Ayub Medical College for histological diagnosis. The data was analyzed by simple tabulation method.

OBSERVATIONS AND RESULTS

The study included 50 cases (25 males, 25 females). The age range was from below 20 years to above 50 years (Table 1). There were 2 cases in age group up to 20 years, both were females. The maximum number of cases (28/50) were in age group 41-60 years.

All cases had positive history of oral tobacco use in the form of naswar of variable duration and quantity. All the cases clinically presented with ulcerative lesions.

The maximum number of cases were carcinoma gum (14/50). The next common site was tongue (10/50 cases). There were 7 cases from oropharynx (Table 2). Histologically 48/50 cases were of squamous cell carcinomas of varying grades of differentiation.

There was one malignant melanoma and one Adenocarcinoma (Table 3).

DISCUSSION

The study shows a strong (100%) association of tobacco chewing with carcinoma of oral cavity and oropharynx. This is similar to other studies carried out in Pakistan and other parts of the world^(8,10). Both the sexes are involved equally and almost no age group is spared (Table 1). All the cases clinically presented with ulcerative lesions. As for tobacco use is concerned, the present study mostly favours the result of other studies done in Pakistan and abroad^(8,10). However, the significance which this study reveals that every case, whatever the age group may be, presenting with ulcerative oral lesions and positive history of oral use of tobacco must be biopsied to rule out malignancy.

TABLE-1: CARCINOMA ORAL CAVITY AND OROPHARYNX AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION

AGE GROUP	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
0-20		2	2
21-40	4	4	8
41-60	12	16	28
61-80	9	1	10
UNKNOWN		2	2
TOTAL	25	25	50

From Ayub Medical College, Abbottabad.
ABDUL WAHID, Asstt. Professor & Head, of Dentistry
SAJJAD AHMAD, Associate Professor, Pathology.

TABLE-2: CARCINOMA ORAL CAVITY AND OROPHARYNX SITE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION

SITE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
TONGUE	3	7	10
GUM	9	5	14
FLOOR OF MOUTH			
PALATE	1		1
CHEEK	4	5	9
UNSPECIFIED	4	5	9

TABLE-3: CARCINOMA OF ORAL CAVITY AND OROPHARYNX HISTOLOGICAL TYPE

HISTOLOGICAL TYPE	NUMBER
SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA	25
Well differentiated	
Moderately differentiated	16
Poorly differentiated	7
Melano Carcinoma	1
Adenocarcinoma	1
TOTAL	50

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