

LETTER TO EDITOR

Giant Pleomorphic Adenoma of Parotid Gland**Dear Editor:**

Pleomorphic adenomas are the most common benign neoplasms of the parotid gland. The vast majority are 2-6cms in size, when resected [1]. Untreated pleomorphic adenomas can enlarge in size and weigh several kilograms [2]. There are only few cases of giant pleomorphic adenomas reported in the literature. Here we present one of such case.

Fig-1: Photograph showing huge swelling over left side of the face in an elderly female

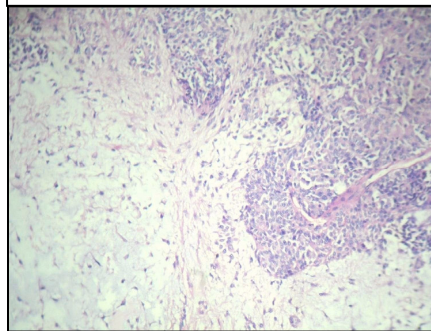


A 65 years old lady presented with a huge swelling over left side of the face (fig-1), which enlarged gradually over a period of 30 years. There was no history of pain or discharge. There were no features suggestive of facial palsy. Fine needle aspiration cytology was advised. It was suggestive of pleomorphic adenoma. Later mass was excised.

Fig-2: Cut surface showing predominantly solid, pale-white and lobulated areas.



Fig-3 Photomicrograph showing both epithelial component and stromal component. (H&E 200x)



Received single nodular mass, measuring 19x15x8cms in dimensions and weighing 1.7kgs. Outer surface is bosselated and partially covered by skin with no areas of ulceration. Cut surface showed partly encapsulated, solid, pale-white areas with many tiny cysts (fig-2). Mucoïd and chondroid areas were also seen with no areas of hemorrhage and necrosis.

Multiple sections studied showed tumor tissue arranged in biphasic pattern composed of epithelial component and stromal component (fig-3). Predominantly myoepithelial cells are seen myxohyaline and chondroid stroma. Cystic change is also noted. No nuclear atypia and atypical mitosis seen. One of the sections shows oncocytic change.

Diagnosis: Giant pleomorphic adenoma with extensive myoepithelial change. Pleomorphic adenomas usually present as slow growing asymptomatic discrete swellings which gradually increase in size. Large tumors often form a single but irregular nodular mass which stretches the underlying skin or mucosa. The weight of the tumor can vary from several grams to more than 8kgs and the weight appears to increase with duration of tumor [1].

The largest benign mixed tumor recorded in the modern language English literature is 26cms in diameter [3]. In our case the resected tumor was measuring 19x15x8cms in dimensions and weighing 1.7kgs and this is the largest benign mixed tumor recorded in India. Malignant change was found in 10% of 31 giant pleomorphic adenoma cases reviewed by Schultz-Coulon [1]. The incidence of malignancy frequently shows a correlation between the length of the history of pleomorphic adenoma (average-23 years) and the development of carcinoma [4].

Generally malignant transformation can be suspected with a sudden increase in growth and local signs of malignancy including pain, ulceration, spontaneous bleeding and superficial and deep tissue invasion [5]. Our patient did not have any of the above clinical characteristics of malignant transformation and histopathology also revealed no evidence of malignant change.

Untreated pleomorphic adenomas can enlarge gradually up to several centimetres in dimensions and several kilograms in weight and some of these long standing tumors may show malignant change. Therefore, early diagnosis and treatment of pleomorphic adenoma is essential.

References

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