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A Rare Case of Pilomatrixoma (Calcifying Epithelioma of Malherbe) of Parotid Space Masquerading as Salivary Gland Tumor

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Dear Editor-in-Chief

Pilomatrixoma is a benign tumor of hair follicle first described as calcifying epithelium (1). It accounts for 1% of all the benign skin tumors (2). It is a slow-growing, firm, dermal or subcutaneous neoplasm, usually measuring fewer than 3 cm in diameter. Pilomatrixomas are considered benign; rarely recur after surgical excision (3). However, cases of pilomatrixoma with local recurrence and local invasiveness have been reported in the literature.

Microscopically, the tumor is characterized by proliferation of basaloid cell masses arranged haphazardly throughout the tumor with varying degree of cytological atypia with eosinophilic-cornified material and abundant shadow cells (4). We hereby present a case of pilomatrixoma arising in a parotid space of a 28 yr old lady.

A 28 yr old woman presented to the Department of Oral Medicine and Radiology, NIMS Dental College Jaipur (India) in December 2015 with a chief complaint of a swelling and pain on

her left subauricular region, the lesion had disappeared and relapsed several times over one year of duration (Fig. 1). On palpation, it was firm and movable with tenderness. Cervical lymph nodes were non – palpable. Ultrasonography revealed a patchy radiopaque lesion of the parotid space (Fig. 2). Clinical differential diagnoses of pleomorphic adenoma, pilomatrixoma and neurogenic tumors with dystrophic calcification were considered. Informed consent of the patient was obtained. A surgical procedure was performed under general anesthesia. The mass was exposed and removed along with surrounding tissue by extracapsular enucleation. The excised specimen was sent to the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology NIMS Dental College (Jaipur). The gross specimen showed a firm gritty cut (Fig. 3).

Histological examination revealed a peripheral layer of basophilic cells resembling epithelium basaloid cells. The connective tissue stroma was loose and fibrillar (Fig. 4). A central area exhibited collection of numerous nucleus free cells with diaphanous cytoplasm resembling shadow

cells (Fig. 5) with dilated blood vessels and areas of eosinophilic cornified material resembling calcifications (Fig. 6). Hence, the final diagnosis of pilomatrixoma was rendered. The patient's follow up period of 2 yrs was uneventful.

Pilomatrixomas are rare benign low growing tumors of skin, chiefly affects pediatric population. Clinically, they present as well circumscribed, solitary, painless, subcutaneous tumors. The lesions grow slowly, without itching or



Fig. 1
Swelling of the subauricular area



Fig. 2
Radiograph reveals calcifications of the parotid space



Fig. 3
Cut section of the specimen

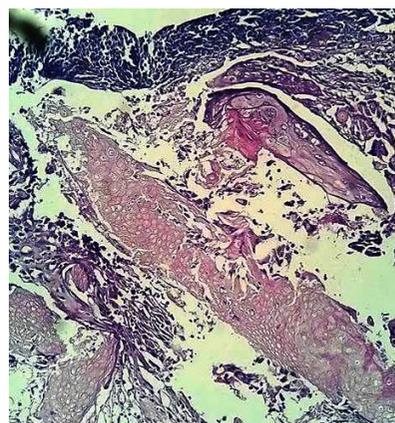


Fig. 4
Areas of basaloid squamous cells (Hematoxilin and Eosin stain X40)

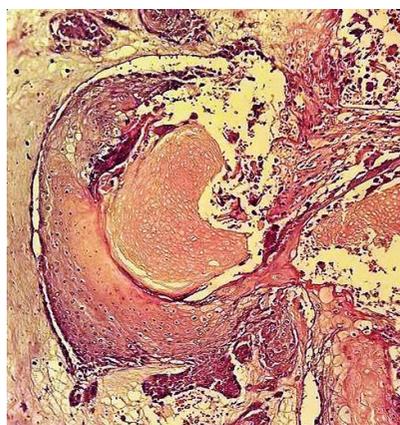


Fig. 5
Areas of haphazardly arranged epithelium basaloid cells and shadow cells (Hematoxilin and Eosin stain X40)

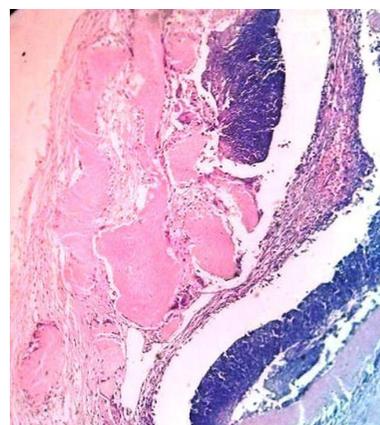


Fig. 6
Areas of eosinophilic cornified materials (Hematoxilin and Eosin stain X20)

other symptoms (5). The skin over the neoplasm may present normal appearance or changes in color from pale to red or bluish depending on the secondary inflammation (1-3). The lesions are fixed to the overlying skin, but mobile in relation to deep planes. Epithelial thinning or even ulceration may occur. Pilomatrixomas show predilection for the face, but may be present in any region of the body, except in the palms or soles. Pilomatrixomas are rarely found parotid space only few cases have been reported (4). Pilomatrixoma is diagnosed by examination (1, 3, 4). "The consistency of the lesion varies considerably, depending on the degree of calcification. Ultrasound examination may be helpful in diagnosis" (6).

Histological features of pilomatrixomas are typical and shows haphazardly arranged basaloid cells throughout the lesion with areas of shadow cells and abundant calcified areas (4).

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests.

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