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### A study of malignant lesions of head and neck - Clinico-pathological correlation

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#### ABSTRACT

In the present study comprising cases of 5 years duration. (2009-2014). Out of total 13,523 biopsies registered, 9.1% (957 cases) are head and neck lesions. Out of 8000 tumours registered, head and neck 6.63% (737 cases) are 6.63%. Among head and neck tumours, neoplastic lesions are more common accounting for 82% (737 cases) and tumor like lesions accounting for 18% (163 cases). Among the neoplastic lesions, benign tumors are the most common constituting 54% (405 cases) and malignant tumors 46% (332 cases). Among malignant tumors, cheek buccal-mucosa, neoplasms of unspecified parts of mouth are the most common tumor's comprising 53.3% (174 cases). Among tumor like lesions, chronic inflammations are commonest. The most common age of occurrence of benign tumors is observed in 4<sup>th</sup> decade.

**Keywords:** Malignant tumor, Tumor like lesions.

#### INTRODUCTION

Head and Neck cancer is the term given to a variety of malignant tumors that develop in the oral cavity, pharynx, nasal cavity, larynx and salivary – glands. Excluding superficial skin cancers, brain lesions and thyroid lesions it is estimated that about 60,000 people are diagnosed with head and neck cancers annually, about 5% of all cancers diagnosed in U.S. Diseases of head and neck range from common cold to uncommon neoplasms of nose. There are several different types of head and neck cancers, categorized according to the specific tissue or organ where the cancer originates. From cancerous lesions on lower

lip to paranasal sinus tumors deep within the skull. Cancers of oral – cavity includes all the various parts of the mouth, the lips, the lining inside the lips and cheek (buccal mucosa), the bottom of mouth, the front of tongue, the front part of top of mouth (the hard – palate), the gums and the area behind wisdom-teeth. Salivary gland tumors are relatively uncommon but elicit considerable medical interest because of their multifaceted clinical presentation, varied histologic appearance and difficulties in predicting their prognosis. So, salivary gland tumours represent a challenging histopathological problem to the pathologist as well as surgeon. Although salivary

gland tumors comprise only 2 to 0.5 % of all neoplasms of head and neck and the annual incidence of these tumors throughout the world varies from about 0.4 to 6.5 cases per 1 lakh people. Biopsy remains the main stay of salivary gland tumors even today, in spite of recent advances in the diagnostic field such as FNAC, IHC and diagnostic imaging techniques like X-ray, ultrasonography, CT Sialography and MRI, they act only as adjuncts in the diagnosis of salivary gland tumours. Many head and neck lesions are cystic or papillary cystic.

## **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

A total of 13,523 biopsies were registered in the Department of pathology, Sri Venkateswara Medical College, Tirupati from 2009 to 2014 the surgical pathology service of this department caters to the diagnostic needs of S.V.R.R. Government General Hospital, Govt. Maternity Hospital and also to the neighboring hospitals. 60 fine needle aspiration cytologies were done during the period of prospective and retrospective study. The prospective and retrospective study with regard to the tumours of head and neck was done in a detailed manner taking into amount.

1. Recorded clinical details like age, sex, signs and symptoms and FNAC features.
2. Gross appearance of tumor.
3. Histopathologic features
4. Method of clinic-pathological study.

## **OBSERVATION**

Squamous cell cancers account for most of head and neck malignancies.

## **RESULTS AND ANALYSIS**

### **FREQUENCY OF HEAD AND NECK TUMORS AMONG ALL BIOPSIES**

#### **GENERAL**

From 2009 to 2014 (5Years study). 900 were head and neck tumors giving an incidence of 9.1%. The neoplastic lesions numbered 737 out of a total of 13,523 biopsies of the body. Among a total of 737 tumors of head and neck, malignant tumors constituted 46%.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF HEAD AND NECK TUMOURS**

### **GENERAL**

Out of head and neck tumours in this study, 332 were malignant neoplasms giving an incidence of 46 %, 405 were benign giving an incidence of 54%.

### **INDIVIDUAL**

The head and neck tumors were classified into 8 categories the frequency of malignant neoplasms of oral cavity is the highest (62.6%) followed by malignant neoplasms of tongue. (9.1%). The incidence of squamous cell carcinoma of buccal mucosa is the highest among malignant neoplasms.

## **AGE DISTRIBUTION OF HEAD AND NECK TUNORS**

### **GENERAL**

Of the 900 head and neck lesions recurred by us, the age of patient ranged from 40 to 70 years. There is high evidence among middle aged and older aged individuals, Majority of head and neck tumors in this study occurred in the fifth and sixth decades giving an incidence of 24.6% with a peak age incidence of between 50 and 60 years Benign head and neck neoplasms displayed a peak incidence in third and fourth decades (54%) where as the malignant neoplasms displayed a peak incidence in the fifth and sixth decades (46%) among tumor like lesions the peak age incidence is observed in the second and sixth decades giving an incidence of 18 % individually.

### **INDIVIDUAL**

Out of 900 lesions of head and neck, 184 lesions occurred in the 5<sup>th</sup> decade followed by 130 lesions in the 6<sup>th</sup> decade together accounting for an incidence of 45.2 % Most of the squamous cell carcinomas occurred in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> decades.

## **DISCUSSION**

Head and neck neoplasms account for 6.36% of all neoplasms and the annual incidence throughout the world varies from about 5 to 6.5 cases per 1 lakhs people.

Sl.no.	Total No. of Head and neck Tumours 900	Percentage 9.1
1.	Malignancies of nasal cavity and para-nasal sinuses	5
2.	Ocular malignancies	15
3.	Salivary gland malignancies	13
4.	Laryngeal malignancies	12
5.	Malignancies of Uvula	188
6.	Pharyngeal Malignancies	24

## CONCLUSION

In the present study comprising cases of 5 years duration (2009 to 2014)

- Out of a total of 13,523 biopsies (in general) registered, 9.1% are head and neck lesions. Out of 8000 tumors registered, head and neck are 6.63% (737 cases).
- Among head and neck tumors, neoplastic lesions are more common accounting for 82% (737 cases)

and tumour like lesions accounting for 18% (163 cases) Among neoplastic lesions, benign tumors are the most common constituting 54% (405 cases) and malignant tumors comprise 46% (332 cases)

- Among malignant tumors, cheek, buccal-mucosa, neoplasms of unspecified parts of mouth are the most common tumors comprising 53.3% (174 cases).

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