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The Palate: Adenocystic Carcinoma

Wilson I B Onuigbo*

Pathology Department, Medical Foundation & Clinic, Nigeria

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***Corresponding author:** Wilson I B Onuigbo, Pathology Department, Medical Foundation & Clinic, Enugu, 400001, Nigeria, Email: wilson.onuigbo@gmail.com

Abstract

According to Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, this was first used in the 14th Century to mean "the root of the mouth separating the mouth from the nasal cavity." This important boundary deserves scrutiny, starting with worldwide examples and ending with data collected personally in a developing community.

Keywords: Palate; Mouth; Nose; Adenocystic carcinoma; Literature; Developing community

Introduction

The Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines "palate" as "the root of the mouth separating the mouth from the nasal cavity" [1]. As its practice goes, this was first used in the 14th century. Now, the important theme of adenocystic carcinoma has been illustrated worldwide from countries as far apart as India [2-6], Saudi Arabia [7], Brazil [8-10], and UK [11]. Therefore, a comparison is made with data from the Ibo/Igbo ethnic group [12], thanks to the local histopathology pool which was established in keeping with the view of Birmingham (UK) group that such a pool enhances epidemiological analysis [13].

Investigation

From 1970, the author was the pioneer pathologist at the Regional Pathology Laboratory, Enugu, Nigeria, thus facilitating the possession of all the individual reports. These were analyzed with reference to the cases of adenocystic carcinoma of the palate.

Results

The Tabular form is used (Table 1).

Table 1: Epidemiological data.

No	Initials	Age	Sex	Provisional Diagnosis
1	OS	48	F	Pleomorphic adenoma
2	IM	55	F	Salivary adnoma
3	OP	48	F	Pleomorphic adenoma
4	EJ	18	F	Adenoma
5	AO	41	M	Adenocystic carcinoma

Discussion

The most striking published case was the UK example of a 9-year-old boy [11]. The nearest to this age was the local 18-year-old female. Among the adults, the Indians featured 2 males aged 60 years [3] and 57 years [5], whereas the local sole youngest patient was aged 40 years. In contrast, on considering the Indian females, the age ranges included 35 years [3] as well as 41 years [7] and 45 years [6], the average being 40 years. In respect of the local females, apart from the youngest patient already mentioned, the local patients were aged from 48 to 55 years (mean 50 years). Accordingly, the local females were older. This is in line with the review which concluded that "peak incidence occurs predominantly among women, between the 5th and 6th decades of life" [4]. Incidentally, only one correct provisional diagnosis was made. In sum, adenoma constituted the rest.

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