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Cytopathology of salivary gland lesions with histopathological correlation. A two year study in a tertiary care centre in South India

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Objective: To elucidate the cytomorphological features of various salivary gland lesions and explore the diagnostic accuracy and pitfalls of FNAC.

Materials & Methods: 130 patients with various salivary gland lesions referred to the cytology lab of our institute over a period of two years were taken up for the study. FNAC was done with prior consent after recording the relevant clinical details. Only 61 patients who underwent surgery ultimately were included in the study.

Results: In the present study, we obtained 130 cases of salivary gland lesions. The age range of the group varied from 1 year to 88 years with a mean age of 45 years. Biopsy confirmation of diagnosis was available in 61 cases. Benign tumors constituted the largest category followed by malignant tumors and inflammatory lesions. Pleomorphic adenoma was the most common benign tumor and mucoepidermoid carcinoma was the most common malignant tumor in our study. The overall diagnostic accuracy of FNAC was 86.7% with a sensitivity of 56.3% and a specificity of 97.7% for detecting malignancy.

Conclusion: FNAC is a safe and economic procedure for preoperative evaluation and categorization of various salivary gland lesions. Proper sampling of lesions and adequate cellularity of the smears are the pre-requisites for an accurate diagnosis. Pitfalls in cytologic diagnosis were due to errors in sampling and interpretation of smears. This study highlights the utility of FNAC in distinguishing benign and malignant salivary gland tumors which are of utmost value in planning the further management of the patient.

Biography

Tessy P J has completed her post-graduation in Pathology from Mahatma Gandhi University and is presently working as a senior faculty in the Department of Pathology Government Medical College Ernakulam. She proved her merit as an expert in the field of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and is an excellent academician. She is actively involved in diagnostic and research activities and has several publications in reputed national and international journals.

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