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Correlation of p16 expression and the clinicopathologic presentation of Anal Squamous Cell Carcinoma

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BACKGROUND : Many studies have shown a strong association between human papilloma virus (HPV) and anal squamous cell carcinoma (ASCC). Recent studies have also shown that HPV- related squamous cell carcinoma typically show abnormal overexpression of p16(INK4a), which is detected by immunohistochemical (IHC) staining. In this study we will compare the clinicopathological features of p16 positive (p16+)and p16 negative (p16-) ASCC.

DESIGN : The Miraca Life Sciences Data Warehouse was searched for cases with the diagnosis of ASCC on anal biopsies diagnosed between 1/1/2009 and 6/1/2011. The first 50 consecutive cases were included in this study. Original H&E stained slides were retrieved. The slides were reviewed by 3 pathologists and a representative block was selected for p16 immunohistochemical analysis. Pertinent clinical and pathologic details were gathered.

RESULTS : We get 43 (86%) p16 positive ASCC patients, 11 male and 32 female with mean age at presentation 63.6 of the 43 p16 positive ASCC, 23 (53.5%) were poorly differentiated including the basaloid pattern and 20 (46.5%) were moderately differentiated. p16 negative ASCC patients were 7 (14%), 3 male and 4 female with mean age at presentation 74.8. All 7 (100%) p16 negative ASCC were moderately differentiated.

CONCLUSION : p16 + ASCC represented the majority of ASSC (86%). This group of patients had a female predominance and a wide range for age of presentation (47-84, mean=63.6). Patients with p16 (-) ASCC represent only 14% of cases. They presented at older age (54-91, mean =74.8) and showed almost equal gender distribution. Interestingly, poorly differentiated ASCC was only seen in p16 + ASCC and represented 53.5% of this group.

Biography

Sahar Samaha, M.D. is board certified in AP/CP and Cytopathology. She has completed her residency and 2 fellowships in surgical pathology and cytopathology at University of Kansas Medical Center. She is in practice for over 15 years. She got her medical degree from Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt. Before moving to the United States, she finished her residency and obtained her master's degree in Ophthalmology. She is the director of Aloha lab at Miraca life sciences.

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