

Extra-osseous solitary hard palate neurofibroma

Aline Cristina Batista Rodrigues Jobann¹, Patrícia Carlos Caldeira², Giovanna Ribeiro Souto³, João Batista de Freitas⁴, Ricardo Alves Mesquita⁵

Keywords: hard palate, mouth mucosa, neurofibroma, neurofibromatosis 1.

INTRODUCTION

The neurofibroma (NF) is a benign tumor of the peripheral nerve sheath that rarely affects the head and neck. However, among neural lesions, this is the one that most frequently affects this region^{1,2}. The NF can be intra or extra-osseous, alone or multiple (associated with type I neurofibromatosis)^{2,3}. The most common extra-osseous mouth NF locations are tongue, oral mucosa and lips². In the literature we found two well-documented cases of solitary extra-osseous NF in the hard palate^{1,4}.

CASE PRESENTATION

A 39 year-old-female was referred to us because of a diagnosis of a lesion on the palate. The patient was edentulous and had a single, asymptomatic, sessile and fibrous pink and smooth nodule measuring 30 x 30 x 05mm, on the right side of the posterior region of the hard palate, near the alveolar border, that had been evolving for three years (Figure 1A). Her medical history was uneventful. X-ray images did not show any alterations. The clinical diagnosis was pleomorphic adenoma or benign mesenchymal neoplasia. We did an incisional biopsy and the specimen was referred to analysis. Histological exam showed fusiform cell proliferation with undulated nuclei distributed in a disorganized fashion on the fibrous connective tissue (Figure 1B). All the neoplastic cells were immunopositive for protein S-100 (streptoavidin-biotin technique), Dako Corporation®, clone: Z0311, dilution 1:100, without antigenic recovery, incubated for 18 hours at 4°C) (Figure 1C). The final diagnosis was NF. The patient was re-evaluated and there were no more evidences of type I neurofibromatosis. The lesion was excised; it was well outlined

and attached to the greater palatine nerve (Figure 1D). This portion of the nerve was also resected (Figure 1E). There was no recurrence during the 12 months of follow up (Figure 1F).

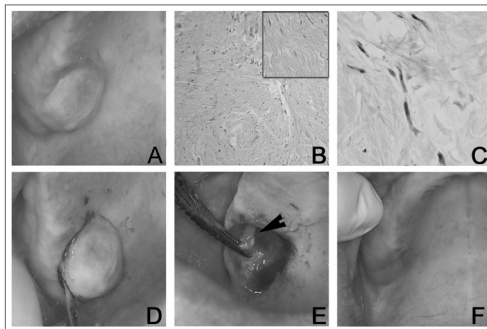


Figure 1. A- During clinical exam we noticed a single, asymptomatic, sessile, fibrous, pinkish, smooth nodule, measuring 30 x 30 x 05mm, on the right side of the posterior hard palate. B- Histopathology revealed proliferation of fusiform cells with undulated nucleus, disorganized and distributed in fibrous connective tissue (hematoxylin-eosin dye; 100X magnification). Detail image of fusiform cells with undulated nucleus (hematoxylin-eosin dye 200X magnification). C- Neoplastic cells were immunopositive for protein S-100 (streptoavidin-biotin technique, 400x magnification). D- During surgical excision we could see that the lesion was attached to the greater palatine nerve (arrow), and part of the nerve was also resected. E- No recurrence was seen during the 12 months of follow up.

DISCUSSION

Pollack¹ and Shimoyama et al⁴ reported two cases of solitary extra-osseous hard palate NF, which usually is a small, sessile, smooth, well outlined and not-encapsulated nodule^{1,2}. Cherrick and Eversole² observed a predilection for females. Chen and Miller⁵ reported that mouth NF affect people between 9 and 72 years of age. These clinical characteristics were seen in this case. NFs are immunopositive for the S-100 protein in 85 to 100% of the cases, indicating its neural origin^{3,6}. Tre-

atment for solitary NF is surgical excision and recurrence is rare^{2,4}. In the case hereby described the tumor was easily removed because it was well outlined. Moreover, a portion of the greater palatine nerve was also removed.

FINAL COMMENTS

It is fundamental to follow the patient with NF, because the solitary NF can be the first manifestation of type I neurofibromatosis. This patient is under follow up care and until this report was made we did not see any relapse.

REFERENCES

1. Shimoyama T, Kato T, Nasu D, Kaneko T, Horie N, Ide F. Solitary neurofibroma of the oral mucosa: a previously undescribed variant of neurofibroma. *J Oral Sci* 2002;44(1):59-63.
2. Cherrick HM, Eversole LR. Benign neural sheath neoplasm of the oral cavity. Report of thirty-seven cases. *Oral Surg Oral Med Oral Pathol* 1971;32(6):900-9.
3. Souza LB, Oliveira JMB, Freitas TMC, Carvalho RA. Neurofibroma paciniano: relato de um caso raro de localização intra-oral. *Rev Bras Otorrinolaringol* 2003;69(6):851-4.
4. Pollack RP. Neurofibroma of the palatal mucosa. A case report. *J Periodontol* 1990;61(7):456-8.
5. Chen SY, Miller AS. Neurofibroma and schwannoma of the oral cavity. A clinical and ultrastructural study. *Oral Surg Oral Med Oral Pathol* 1979;47(6):522-8.
6. Johnson MD, Glick AD, Davis BW. Immunohistochemical evaluation of Leu-7, myelin basic-protein, S100-protein, glial-fibrillary acidic-protein, and LN3 immunoreactivity in nerve sheath tumors and sarcomas. *Arch Pathol Lab Med* 1988;112(2):155-60.

¹ M.Sc., PhD student - Dentistry School - Federal University of Minas Gerais.

² Undergraduate Student - Dentistry School - Federal University of Minas Gerais.

³ Undergraduate Student - Dentistry School - Federal University of Minas Gerais.

⁴ M.Sc. Professor - Dentistry School - Federal University of Minas Gerais.

⁵ PhD. Professor - Dentistry School - Federal University of Minas Gerais.

Send correspondence to: Faculdade de Odontologia da Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais - Av. Antônio Carlos 6667 sala 3204 Pampulha Belo Horizonte MG 31270-901.

This study had the support from CNPq (301736/2004-9; 502978/2004-0) and FAPEMIG (CDS 895/05).

Paper submitted to the ABORL-CCF SGP (Management Publications System) on September 14th, 2006 and accepted for publication on October 21th, 2006. cod. 3394.