

ECCRINE GLAND ADENOCARCINOMA IN ALBINISM

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A case of eccrine gland adenocarcinoma is reported in adult male albinism patient.

Key Words : Eccrine gland adenocarcinoma, Salivary gland metastases

Introduction

Incidence of eccrine gland carcinoma is relatively rare.¹ The classic type of eccrine gland adenocarcinoma has a high incidence of metastases, particularly to regional lymphnodes and rarely visceral metastases are seen.²

Among the neoplasms of sweat glands a study of 50 cases were accounted during a period of 27 years in which 3 cases were eccrine gland carcinomas.³

In another study only 5 cases were reported stating that incidence of eccrine gland carcinoma was rare.⁴

Case Report

A 28-year-old male albinism patient born to consanguineous married parents was presented with nodulo-ulcerative lesion over forehead, left ear and swelling in the left mandibular region of 9 months duration in a chronological order. To start with, a small painless nodular lesion appeared over the centre of forehead which broke open to produce an ulcer (Fig. 1). After 2 months similar lesion had appeared over left ear. 15 days later a small swelling appeared over the left submandibular region and went on increasing in size gradually. History of mild



Fig. 1 Nodulo-ulcerative lesion over forehead, fungating growth over (L) ear and swelling in the (L) submandibular region.

pain particularly during chewing of food was present. History of photosensitivity was present. No history of loss of weight and appetite.

Patient had 2 sisters and 1 brother. One sister was affected by albinism. Parents were normal.

Cutaneous examination revealed a nodulo-ulcerative lesion over centre of forehead.

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measuring 2.5 cms x 0.75 cms, mobile, mildly tender, serosanguinous discharge was present. Ulcerative plaque with verrucous surface was seen over left ear. Swelling in the left submandibular region of 5 cms x 3 cms in size was present. Firm to hard in consistency, non-tender and freely mobile. Patient had oculocutaneous albinism. Systemic examination was normal.

Routine investigations were within normal limits. Skin biopsy (forehead), showed eccrine glandular structures with multiple group of tumor cells with hyperchromatic nuclei with prominent nucleoli and the tumor cells were separated by fibrous tissue septa, suggestive of adenocarcinoma of eccrine gland (Fig. 2). Biopsy from submandibular swelling revealed salivary gland with tumor cells of eccrine gland separated by fibrous septa.

Comments

Common tumors which occur in Albinism patients are squamous cell carcinoma and basal cell carcinoma. Metastases of eccrine gland in to the regional lymphnodes can take place². But in our patient metastases was seen in the submandibular salivary gland, which is an interesting manifestation.

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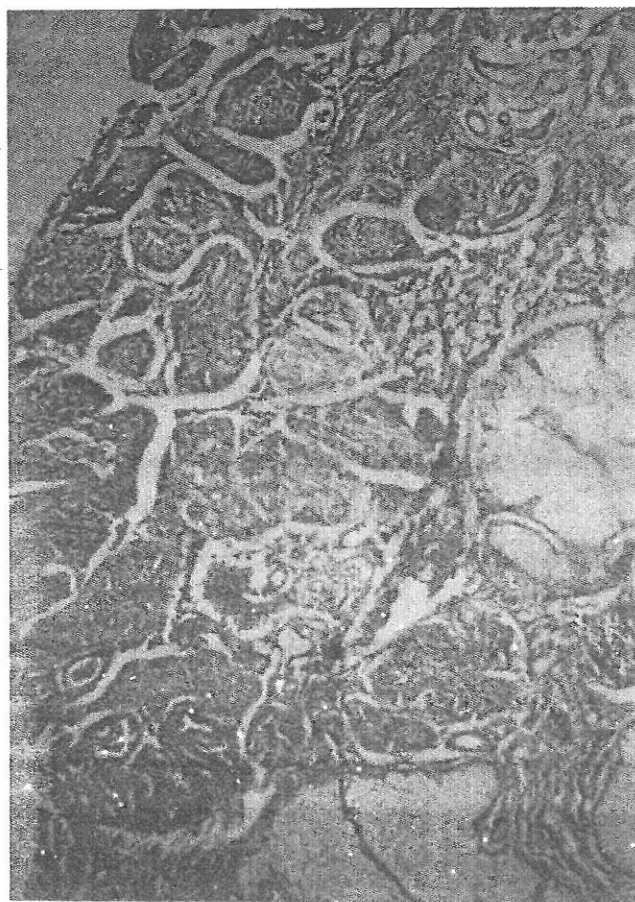


Fig. 2. Normal appearing eccrine glands in the left upper corner with multiple tumor cells separated by thick fibrous septa. Sebaceous gland seen in the upper portion.

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