

of structures is vital. With newer techniques available including minimally invasive surgery and robotics, there are more options for selection based on tumour size and pathology.

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Diagnostic accuracy of fine-needle aspiration and core biopsy in parotid lesions

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Background: Fine-needle aspiration (FNA) and core biopsy (CB) is safe and cost effective technique and introduces high accuracy in identifying nature of salivary gland lesions. Differentiating between inflammatory and neoplastic disease; benign and malignant pathology is paramount to instigate an appropriate management plan to achieve a successful outcome.

Methods: Retrospective study was carried out to examine diagnostic accuracy of parotid FNA/CB. Total of 31 patients who underwent FNA/CB under ultrasound (US) guidance for a parotid lesion at University College London Hospital was randomly selected. Initial and final histological diagnosis was compared.

Results: Average age of patients was 52 years and 9 months (16–79 years) and male to female ratio was 1:1. Most of the lesions were on the right side (right:left, 3:2) and were benign (benign:malignant, 2:1). More patients underwent FNA (FNA:CB, 3:2) and no difference was noted between the two modalities in relation to the initial versus final histological diagnosis. FNA/CB with an initial diagnosis of a benign or malignant pathology did correlate well with the final diagnosis. However, two patients with benign pathology had a histologically different (benign) pathology whilst a similar number was noted for the malignant group.

Conclusion: US-guided FNA and CB remains gold standard investigation for parotid lumps. Results of this study confirms; in the presence of experienced head and neck radiologist and pathologist, US guided FNA and CB of parotid gland is equally reliable and has a good sensitivity and specificity in diagnosis.

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Spotlight on oral cancer in the United Arab Emirates: the presentation and treatment

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Background: Oral cancer associated with significant morbidity and mortality. Worldwide, the estimated deaths are more than 700,000 over a period of five years.

Objectives: To present the outcome of retrospective study designed to determine the prevalence of various malignant oral lesions in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and correlate cases of squamous cell carcinomas with age, gender, site, grade, clinical presentations at the time of diagnosis, and the prevalence of neck metastasis.

Methods: The study was based on histopathology reports and hospital records from the major cancer treatment centres in the UAE.

Findings and Conclusion: Of the 992 oral biopsies reported over years, 147 cases of cancer found, which accounted for 14.9% of the total oral biopsies. 15 types of malignant lesions were diagnosed. Oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC) accounted for 77% of all malignancies reported. The commonest presentation of cancer was ulceration (31.17%), followed by lumps and white lesions. The most common site where the lesions were diagnosed was the tongue (51.9%), followed by the cheeks and lips. Neck dissections performed in only 20.8% of all OSCC cases, of which 43.75% showed evidence of neck metastasis. In conclusion, oral cancer is not an uncommon disease in the UAE. This may mandate more awareness campaigns, including screening procedures for early detection of cancerous lesions and other potentially malignant oral diseases. Neck dissections to remove/detect lymph node metastasis should be more routinely performed, in particular for tongue carcinomas because of the early neck involvement potential.

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Competency of dental students in report of oral mucosal lesions: a potential role of dentists in early cancer detection

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Background: Worldwide, dentists examine millions of mouths everyday, and even though oral cavity is accessible for direct examination, cancer is often detected in a late stage. Discovering early lesions showed a better of cure and survival rate as compared to late or metastatic cancer.

Objectives: To assess the ability of dental students to identify, describe and report various oral mucosal lesions, including potentially malignant diseases.

Methods: Analysis of the lesions reported by students; including classification, accuracy of description, an accuracy of diagnosis score, different locations in the oral cavity, ability of the students to suspect potential for malignancy.

Findings and Conclusion: 850 lesions, reported by 350 students over a period of nine months in total, approximately one-fifth of the reported lesions ($n = 181$) had a potential for malignancy, the risk of malignant changes was suspected by the reporting students in 76% of cases. The most reported lesions were changes of colour (almost 54%). Students could reach an optimal diagnosis in more than half of the cases (59%). However, students failed to provide an adequate description of different types of lesions (57% had poor description).

Dental students, show a significant ability to identify and report various changes in the oral mucosa, strikingly changes in colour followed by tongue lesions. They were able to suspect potential of malignancy. However, most of the participants failed to meet the criteria of the standard description of lesions. This exercise may serve as a model for student training towards competency in early detection of oral lesions and cancer.

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