Does HPV Have a Presence in Diffuse High Grade Pre-malignant Lesions of the Larynx?

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Objectives:
To describe the incidence of HPV in diffuse high-grade pre-cancerous lesions of the larynx.

Methods:
Patient charts were searched for those who presented between October 2008 and June 2009 with diffuse vocal fold leukoplakia. Biopsy proven laryngeal lesions with high-grade dysplasia or carcinoma-in-situ (CIS) were examined for patient characteristics and presence of high-risk type HPV detected by in situ hybridization technique.

Results:
Fifteen patients with pre-cancerous laryngeal lesions were identified. The average age was 63 years and 13 were male. One lesion was identified as positive for high-risk HPV, and all other lesions were negative. At current follow up, no patient has demonstrated progression to invasive carcinoma.

Conclusions:
HPV may not play a role in non-progressing diffuse high-grade lesions of the larynx.

Abstract:
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Results:
Fifteen patients with pre-cancerous laryngeal lesions were identified. The average age was 63 years and 13 patients (93%) were male. One lesion was identified as positive for high-risk HPV, and all other lesions were negative for high-risk HPV. Six (40%) patients received a complete course of post-operative radiation therapy. Eleven patients were either former or current smokers. Average follow-up time was 3.5 years from date of presentation at our institution. At current follow up, no patient has demonstrated progression to invasive carcinoma.

Conclusion:
HPV may not play a role in non-progressing diffuse high-grade lesions of the larynx.

References: