Lymphoepithelial Carcinoma: A Curious Case of a Rare Parotid Tumor


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ABSTRACT

Objective:
To review the histopathology, presentation, and clinical course of a rare case of lymphoepithelial carcinoma (LEC) of the parotid gland.

Case Presentation:
A 29-year-old female referred from an outside hospital with a 10-month history of an enlarging left facial mass. Workup included a fine needle aspirate (FNA) suggestive of a poorly differentiated neoplasm with spindle cell and epithelioid features. Computed tomography (CT) scan revealed a 4.1 x 2.9 x 3.7 cm mass in the superficial lobe of the left parotid with left cervical lymphadenopathy. The patient received a total left parotidectomy, and a selective neck dissection. Histopathological slides reveal LEC positive for cytokeratin, and Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV).

Conclusion:
LEC of the parotid is a rare salivary gland tumor accounting for less than 1% of all salivary gland tumors. As reaffirmed in our case, LEC is more common in women, primarily occurs in the parotid gland, and has an ethnic predilection. Histology reveals an infiltrative poorly differentiated tumor nestled in a lymphoid stroma with near 100% EBV positivity in endemic areas. Complete resection of this poorly differentiated carcinoma followed by post operative radiation is essential for local control.

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REFERENCES


