Parotid Metastasis from Renal Cell Carcinoma: A 46 Year Review

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OBJECTIVES
To review the presentation and management of renal cell carcinoma metastatic to the parotid gland.

METHODS
Case report and review of the literature.

RESULTS
Distant metastasis to the parotid gland is rare. Renal cell carcinoma (RCC) is a neoplasm with a unique metastatic potential to spread to nearly every organ system in the body. There have been 30 reported cases of RCC metastasis to the parotid gland in the English literature. We present a case of a 71-year-old male with a parotid mass noted 4 years after undergoing a nephrectomy for RCC. The patient underwent a right superficial parotidectomy with facial nerve monitoring. Pathology yielded metastatic renal cell carcinoma with negative margins.

CONCLUSIONS
While RCC may not typically be referenced in the differential diagnosis for a parotid mass, it should be considered when patients have a history of RCC. Unfortunately, due to tumor's unique metastatic potential, the parotid can be the initial clinical presentation of the malignancy. After diagnosis is established, a systemic assessment should be performed, as solitary parotid metastases are rare in the literature and other occult sites may coexist. Due to the limited number of cases reported in the literature, clinical outcomes are difficult to predict.

INTRODUCTION
The limited number of cases reported in the literature suggests that RCC is not a common primary malignancy associated with metastasis to the parotid gland. However, metastatic spread to the parotid is uncommon but should be considered at the time of initial assessment of a parotid mass. The most common primary malignancies associated with metastasis to the parotid are cutaneous neoplasms of the head and neck. However, ductal carcinoma of the breast, rhabdomyosarcoma, small cell carcinoma of the lung, and renal cell carcinoma are also primary tumors that harbor the potential for metastatic spread to the parotid that have been reported.

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REFERENCES