Gingival Squamous Cell Carcinoma – A Case Report

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Abstract

Oral squamous cell carcinoma is one of the most common epithelial malignant neoplasm affecting the oral cavity; early detection of this neoplasm plays an important role in achieving a good prognosis. Initially and occasionally, Oral squamous cell carcinoma of the gingiva may be misdiagnosed by its clinical appearance. Carcinomas of the gingiva constitute to approximately 10% of oral squamous cell carcinoma and can mimic oral lesions, especially those with benign features and are of inflammatory origin, often which leads to delay of diagnosis and treatment plan. This article reports a rare case of oral squamous cell carcinoma of gingiva in a 65-year-old male patient.

KEYWORDS: Squamous Cell Carcinoma, Gingival Squamous Cell Carcinoma, Oral Cancer


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Conflict of Interest: None

Introduction

Squamous cell carcinoma is one of the most common malignant neoplasms of the oral cavity more than 90% of oral malignancies. It is an invasive epithelial neoplasm with varying degrees of squamous differentiation, occurring predominantly in tobacco and alcohol using adults in 5th and 6th decades of life.

Gingival squamous cell carcinoma is a less common and rare malignant neoplasm of the oral cavity with less than 10% of diagnosed intraoral carcinoma. As it is close to the teeth and periodontium, the neoplasm can mimic tooth-related benign inflammatory conditions.

Case Report

In the present case report, a 65 years old male, reported to the department of oral pathology and microbiology in GITAM Dental College and Hospital, Vishakhapatnam with a complain of an extra growth and swelling in the vestibule and gum region of the left side of the lower jaw since 4 months.

Intraoral Examination

On thorough intraoral examination a 1.5x2 cm rough, the irregular grayish-white lesion was present on the gingival and vestibular area of the left side of the jaw in relation to 36 37 38 molar region posteriorly till the retromolar area, with diffused border. The swelling had a rough surface, with soft to firm in consistency and with no tenderness on palpation. (Figure-1)

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Discussion

Squamous cell carcinoma of the gingiva is an insidious disease, which does not have the clinical appearance of a malignant neoplasm, and is often misdiagnosed as one of the many inflammatory lesions of the periodontium. Gingival carcinoma typically arises from keratinized mucosa, most often in the posterior mandible, where it destroys the underlying bone structure causing tooth mobility. The etiology of gingival squamous cell carcinoma is not specific, but predisposing factors such as chronic smoking and heavy alcohol use are well known and also due to candida infection, iron deficiency, virus, and immunosuppression. It is important that the lesion should be diagnosed early to initiate treatment, to prevent metastasis as this lesion frequently metastasizes, especially in submaxillary and cervical lymph nodes, and thereby improving the prognosis.

Conclusion

Squamous cell carcinoma of the gingiva is a condition that if diagnosed and treated early has a higher chance of cure. Gingival squamous cell carcinoma should be detected early by dentists. Gingival oral squamous cell carcinoma is more aggressive in behavior and, in its early stage, bears a resemblance to common mucosal infections.

References


