



Mucoepidermoid Carcinoma of the Palate in an Adolescent Male

Emma Graf, MD; Lexie Wang, MD; Rajanya Petersson, MD

VCU Health

Objectives:

1. To discuss the epidemiology, natural history, and pathology of mucoepidermoid carcinoma.
2. To present and discuss the diagnosis and management of a case of mucoepidermoid carcinoma (MEC) of the palate in a 12 year- old male.

Materials and Methods:

Case report and review of literature.

Results:

A 12 year-old male presented to our pediatric otolaryngology clinic after being referred by dentistry for a palatal mass thought to be an abscess. Biopsy indicated low-intermediate grade MEC with perineural invasion. MRI and PET/CT were obtained for staging and surgical planning. Our head and neck oncology multidisciplinary tumor board recommended surgical resection to increase the likelihood of obtaining clear margins. The patient underwent partial maxillectomy. Final pathology revealed high grade MEC with invasion of the maxilla without perineural or lymphovascular invasion. The treatment plan includes postoperative radiation given high-grade nature and obturator for ease of monitoring with delayed reconstruction.

Conclusion:

Intraoral MEC often presents with a painless and slow growing mass. A high degree of suspicion for salivary gland neoplasm is warranted in a child with a palatal mass as the proportion of malignancies in salivary gland neoplasms is greater in the pediatric population. Wide local excision is the recommended treatment for MEC of the minor salivary glands with radiation therapy in patients with high grade histology.