Korean Pathologists Association of North America (KOPANA)

2024 Virtual Spring Seminar

Beyond the surface: Exploring Head and neck cancer through molecular pathology

Seoul National University Hospital
Seoul National University College of Medicine
Jiwon Koh



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Education:

- Medical School: Seoul National University
- Residency: Seoul National University Hospital
- Fellowship: Seoul National University Hospital

Current Position & Institution:

Clinical Assistant Professor

Department of Pathology

Seoul National University Hospital

Subspecialty area:

Breast, Head and Neck, Cardiovascular pathology





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Clinical features Histopathology Molecular pathology

- Adenoid cystic carcinoma
- Mucoepidermoid carcinoma
- Salivary duct carcinoma
- Acinic cell carcinoma
- Secretory carcinoma
- Basal cell adenocarcinoma
- Epithelial-myoepithelial carcinoma
- · Carcinoma ex pleomorphic adenoma
- · Myoepithelial carcinoma
- Hyalinizing clear cell carcinoma

5. Sallvary gland tumours

Salivary gland tumours: Introduction

Non-neoplastic epithelial lesions

Nodular oncocytic hyperplasia

Lymphoepithelial sialadenitis

Benign epithelial tumours

Pleomorphic adenoma

Basal cell adenoma

Warthin tumour

Oncocytoma

Salivary gland myoepithelioma

Canalicular adenoma

Cystadenoma of the salivary glands

Ductal papillomas

Sialadenoma papilliferum

Lymphadenoma

Sebaceous adenoma

Intercalated duct adenoma and hyperplasia

Striated duct adenoma

Sclerosing polycystic adenoma

Keratocystoma

Malignant epithelial tumours

Mucoepidermoid carcinoma Adenoid cystic carcinoma

Acinic cell carcinoma

Secretory carcinoma

Microsecretory adenocarcinoma

Polymorphous adenocarcinoma

Hyalinizing clear cell carcinoma

Basal cell adenocarcinoma

Intraductal carcinoma

Salivary duct carcinoma

Myoepithelial carcinoma

Epithelial-myoepithelial carcinoma

Mucinous adenocarcinoma

Sclerosing microcystic adenocarcinoma

Carcinoma ex pleomorphic adenoma

Carcinosarcoma of the salivary glands

Sebaceous adenocarcinoma

Lymphoepithelial carcinoma

Squamous cell carcinoma

Sialoblastoma

Salivary carcinoma NOS and emerging entities

Mesenchymal tumours specific to the salivary glands

Sialolipoma

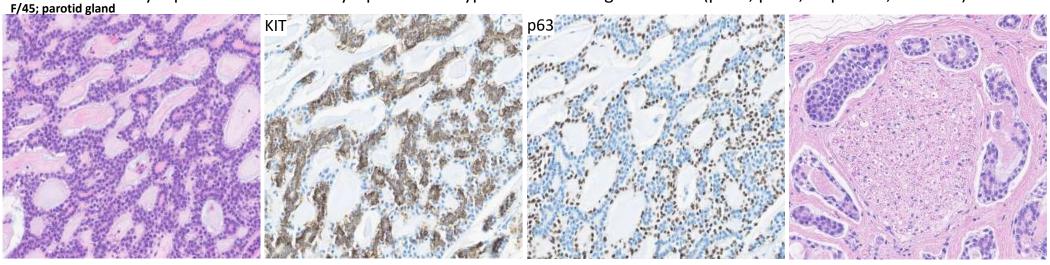
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Clinical features

- 25% of all primary salivary carcinomas; median age of 60 years
- 60% in major salivary gland (parotid, submandibular); 30% in minor salivary gland (palate)
- Neural symptoms are common
- Prolonged clinical course with frequent local recurrences, late onset of metastases
 - Median OS after distant metastasis: 36 months

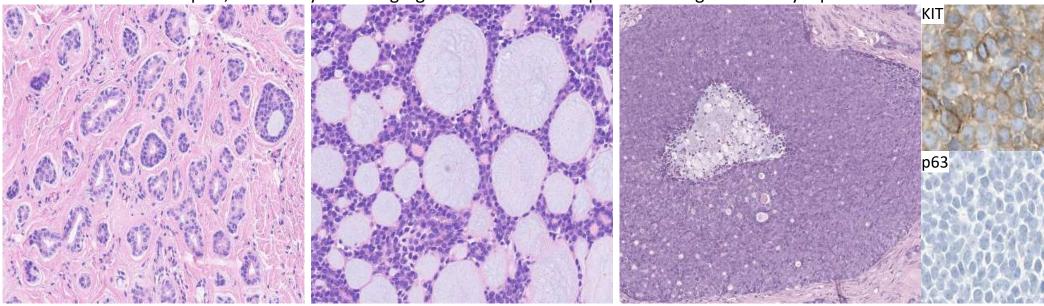
Histopathology

- Two cell component
 - Ductal cells: eosinophilic cytoplasm and uniform round nuclei (CK7+, KIT+)
 - Myoepithelial cells: clear cytoplasm and hyperchromatic angular nuclei (p63+, p40+, calponin+, α-SMA+)



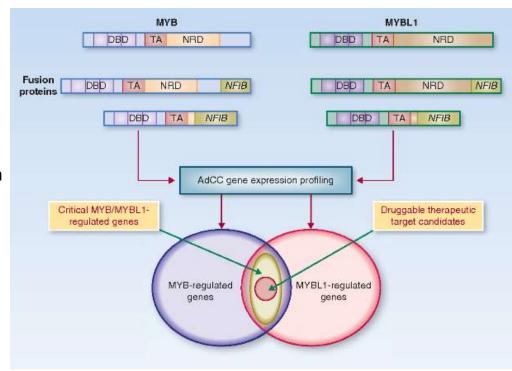


- Histopathology
 - Growth patterns
 - Tubular: well-formed ducts and tubules lined with luminal ductal and abluminal myoepithelial cells
 - Cribriform: most frequent; nests of tumor cells with microcystic spaces, filled with hyaline/basophilic material
 - Solid: tumour sheets composed of basaloid cells lacking tubular or cribriform
 - >30% solid component → more aggressive clinical course
 - High-grade transformation
 - Pleomorphic, mitotically active high-grade carcinoma component → negative for myoepithelial markers

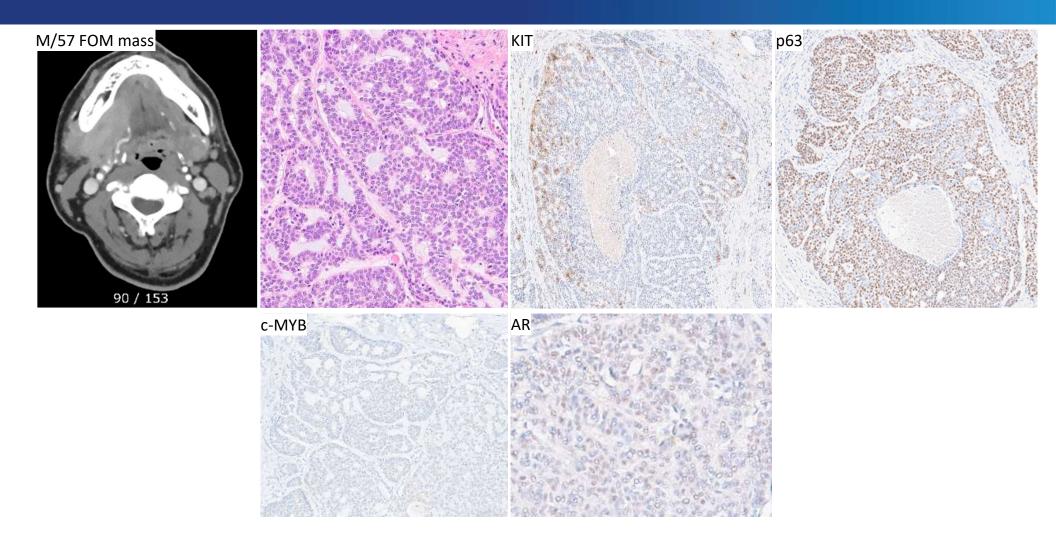


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- Molecular pathology
 - MYB::NFIB fusion (29-86%); MYBL1::NFIB fusion (9-14%)
 → each mutually exclusive
 - MYB: transcription factor regulating proliferation and differentiation of hematopoietic, colonic, and neural progenitor cells
 - NFIB: transcription factor nuclear factor I/B protein
 → key regulator of hematopoietic and epithelial cells
 - MYB::NFIB → overexpression of truncated MYB protein d/t loss of negative regulatory elements
 - Rarer fusions including MYB::PDCD1LG2, MYB::EFR3A, MYBL1::RAD51B, MYBL1::YTHDF3, NFIB::AIG1 fusions











Cancer panel - Report



FIRST-Cancer Panel / Molecular Genetic Testing

■ Result of Actionable Gene Mutation Analysis

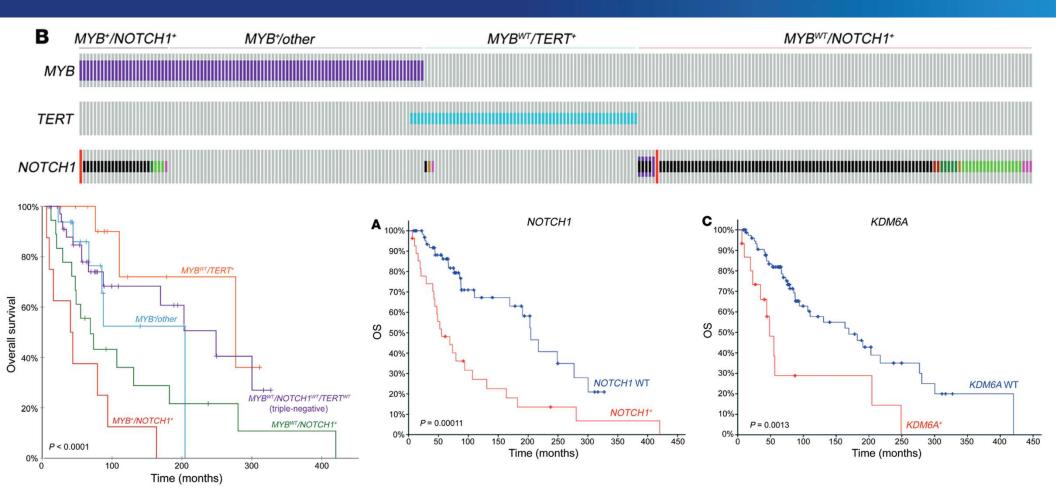
-SNV/INDEL

Gene	Chr	Position	Refseq	Exon	ΛΛ	CDS	%VAF	Alt	Total	Tier
					Not detected					

- Fusion

Fusion Gene	Cytoband1	Cytoband2	DNA.Evidence (Span/Split)	RNA.Evidence (Span/Split)	Transcript1	Transcript2	Last Observed	First Observed	Tier
MYB->NFIB	6q23.3	9p23-p22.3	0/0	0/107	NM_005375	NM_005596	EXON_14	EXON_9	D

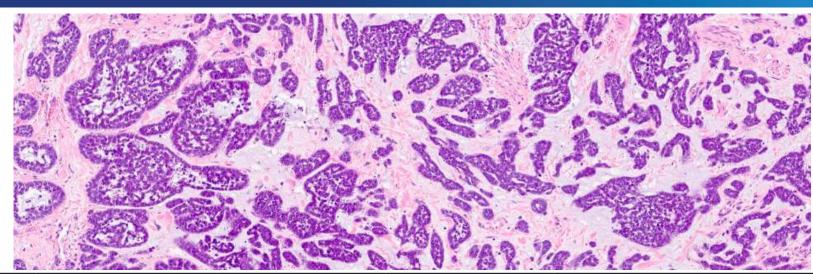




Ho, J Clin Invest. 2019

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F/39; lacrimal gland



-SNV/INDEL

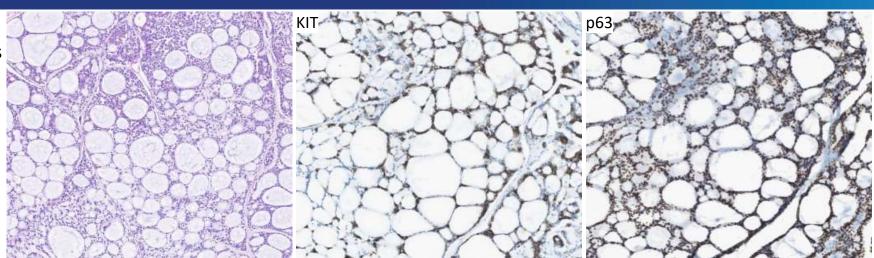
Gene	Chr	Position	Refseq	Exon	AA	CDS	%VAF	Alt	Total	Tier
NOTCH1	chr9	139390793	NM_017617.3	34	p.Ser2467fs	e.7363_7397dupACTATTCTGC CCCAGGAGAGCCCCGCCCT GCCCAC	24.50	172	702	D
NOTCIII	chr9	139401189	NM_017617.3	23	p.Glu1294fs	e.3857_3879dupAGCGCGTCA ATGACTTCCACTGC	11.54	239	2071	D
CREBBP	chr16	3817868	NM 004380.2	16	p.Glu1035*	c.3103G>T	33.59	174	518	D

- Fusion

Fusion Gene	Cytoband1	Cytoband2	DNA.Evidence (Span/Split)	RNA.Evidence (Span/Split)	Transcript1	Transcript2	Last Observed	First Observed	Tier
MYB->NFIB	6q23.3	9p23-p22.3	0/0	9/777	NM 005375	NM 001369461	EXON 14	EXON 10	D

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M/65 FOM mass



-SNV/INDEL

Gene	Chr	Position	Refseq	Exon	AA	CDS	%VAF	Alt	Total	Tier
			6.	4.0	Not detected					

- Fusion

Fusion Gene	Cytoband1	Cytoband2	DNA.Evidence (Span/Split)	RNA.Evidence (Span/Split)	Transcript1	Transcript2	Last Observed	First Observed	Tier
	Not detected								

-CNV

Gene	Chr	Start	End	CNV	AvgL2R	DelR	NeutralR	AmpR	CN	Tier
PDGFRA	chr4	55124713	55161605	Amplification	1.957	0.0	0.0	1.0	11	D
KIT	chr4	55523974	55604878	Amplification	2.112	0.0	0.0	1.0	11	D
KDR	chr4	55945938	55991666	Amplification	2.081	0.0	0.0	1.0	10	D

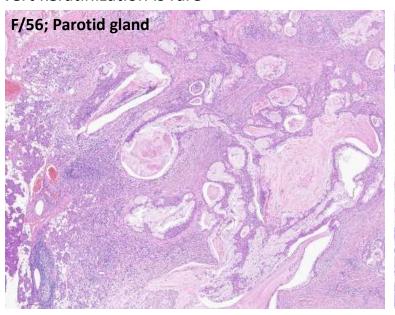


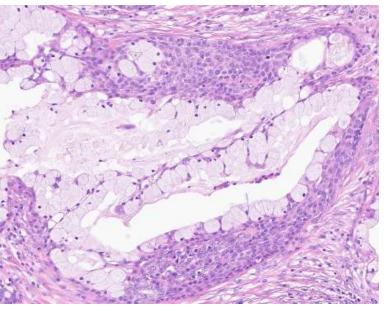
Clinical features

- Childhood to elderly (median age of 45) / M:F 1:1.1-1.5
- About 50% in major salivary gland (parotid > submandibular gland > sublingual gland)

Histopathology

- Malignant salivary gland neoplasm characterized by mucous, intermediate and epidermoid (squamoid) tumor cells forming cystic and solid growth patterns
 - Mucous cells: lining cystic spaces; intracytoplasmic mucicarmine or PAS staining with diastase resistance
 - Overt keratinization is rare







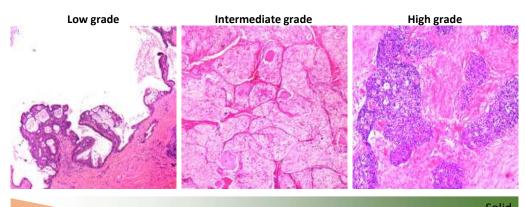
• Histopathology - grading

Table 1. AFIP, Brandwein, and modified Healy grading systems (modified from Seethala)⁵

AFIP		Brandwein		Modified Healy				
Intracystic component <20%	+2	Intracystic component <25%	+2	Low grade: • Macrocysts and				
Neural invasion	+2	Neural invasion	+2	microcysts • Differentiated mucin with 1/1				
		Tumour invades in small nests	12	mucin/epidermoid with minimal to moderate intermediate cells				
Mitosis (≥4/10HPFs)	+3	Mitosis (≥4/10HPFs)	+3	Absent to minimal pleomorphism and rare mitoses Broad front or circumscribed borders Pools of extravasated mucin				
Necrosis	+3	Necrosis	+3	Intermediate grade:				
		Vascular invasion	+3	 Solid nests, few microcysts, no macrocysts 				
Anaplasia	+4	Nuclear atypia	+3	 Mild to moderate pleomorphism few mitoses, prominent nuclei 				
		Bone invasion	+3	and nucleoli Invasive, well defined and uncircumscribed with fibrosis separating tumour nests Peripheral chronic inflammation				
Grade	Score	Grade	Score	High grade:				
Low grade	0–4	Low grade	0	 Predominately solid with no macrocysts 				
Intermediate grade	5-6	Intermediate grade	2-3	 Turnour cells range from poorly differentiated to epidermoid and 				
High grade >7		High grade	≥4	intermediate cells to ductal cells adenocarcinoma • Marked pleomorphism and easily found mitoses • Perincural and vascular invasions soft tissue invasion, and desmoplasia • Less common peripheral chronic inflammation				

Table 2. Our own (Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center) grading system

	Low grade	Intermediate grade	High grade
Predominant growth pattern	Cystic	Predominantly solid	Any (usually solid)
Infiltration	Well circumscribed borders	Well circumscribed or infiltrative borders	Any (usually infiltrative borders)
Mitosis	0-1/10 HPF	<4/10 HPFs	≥4/10 HPFs
Tumour necrosis	Absent	Absent	Present



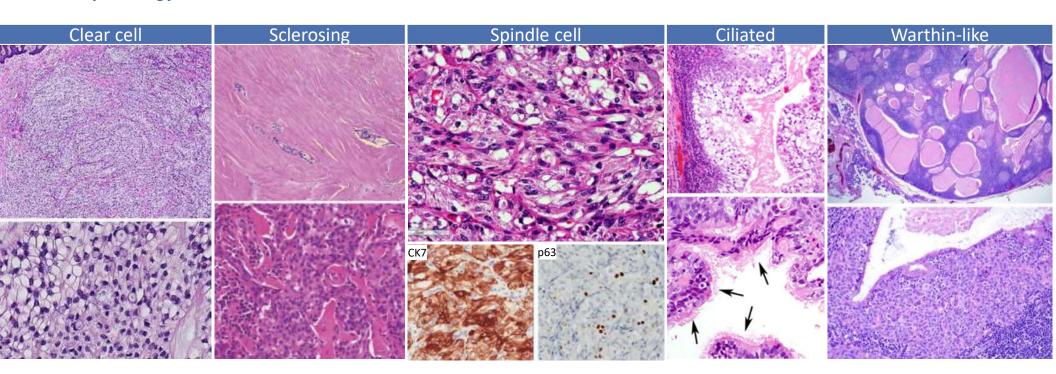
Circumscribed
Cystic
Groups of mucous cells

Fewer mucous cells Pleomorphic, mitosis, necrosis Perineural, LVI, bony invasion

Katabi, Histopathology, 2014

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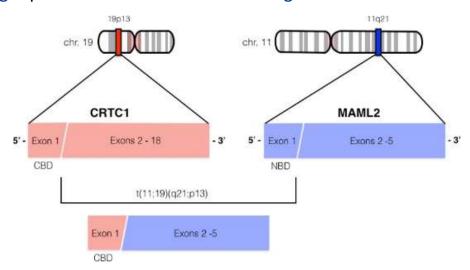
• Histopathology – variants



Tajima, Med Mol Morphol. 2015 Goh, Int J Surg Pathol. 2017 Yabuki, Int J Surg Pathol. 2017 Bishop, Am J Surg Pathol JSP, 2019 Skalova, Am J Surg Pathol. 2020



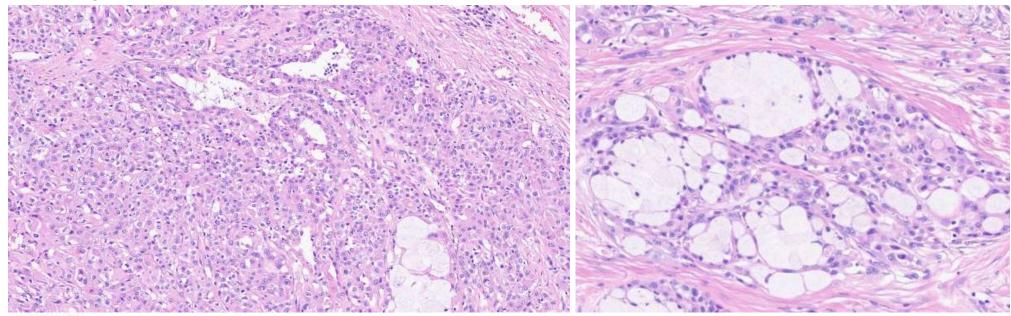
- Molecular pathology
 - t(11;19)(q21;p13) CRTC1::MAML2 fusion
 - Present in 55-88% of MECs
 - CRTC1 exon 1 ~ MAML2 exon 2 to 5
 - CREB-binding domain of CRTC1 replace Notch-binding domain of MAML2
 - Minor fusions including CRTC1::MAML2; EWSR1::POU5F1
 - CRTC1/3-MAML2 as prognostic biomarker
 - Favorable prognosis
 - Mostly seen in younger patients with low-intermediate grade MEC



Perez-de-Oliveira, J Oral Pathol Med. 2020

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F/72; Tongue



-SNV/INDEL

Gene	Chr	Position	Refseq	Exon	AA	CDS	%VAF	Alt	Total	Tier
BAP1	chr3	52437795	NM_004656.3	13	p.Gln456*	c.1366C>T	5.11	97	1900	D

- Fusion

Fusion Gene	Cytoband1	Cytoband2	DNA.Evidence (Span/Split)	RNA.Evidence (Span/Split)	Transcript1	Transcript2	Last Observed	First Observed	Tier
CRTC1->MAML2	19p13.11	11q21	0/0	1/14	NM_001098482	NM_032427	EXON_1	EXON_2	D



Clinical features

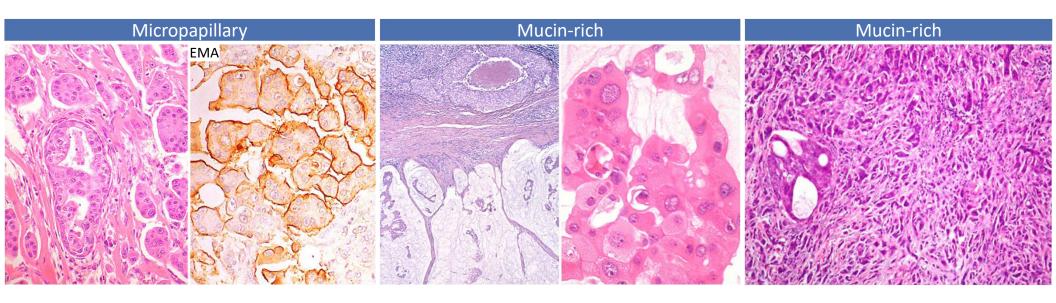
- Rapidly growing high-grade tumor, mostly involving major salivary gland
- Distinct male predilection with peak incidence in the fifth to seventh decades of life

Histopathology

- Complex solid, cribriform, and papillary-cystic architecture with frequent comedo-necrosis
- Large pleomorphic nuclei with coarse chromatin and prominent nucleoli
- Abundant eosinophilic, typically apocrine cytoplasm
- Lymphovascular and perineural invasion are common
- IHC
 - AR expression in 90%
 - Diffuse and strong immunoreactivity for ERBB2/HER2 is identified in about 30%
 - CK7+, S100-, SOX10-

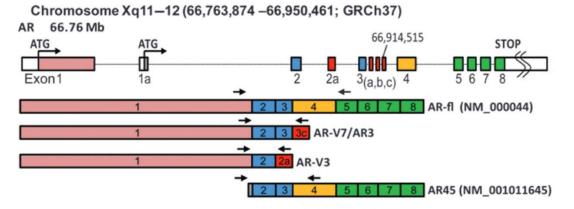
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Histopathology – variants



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- Molecular pathology
 - AR
 - chromosome Xq11-12
 - · Copy number gain, mutation, alternative splicing



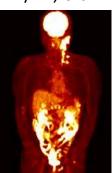
Others

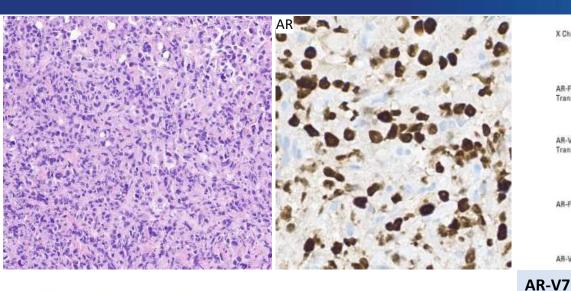
TABLE 4. Key Gene Mutations in Salivary Duct Carcinoma

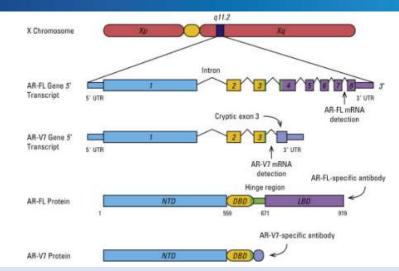
Genetic alterations	Frequency (%)
AR alteration	40-70
TP53 mutation	55-68
ERBB2 amplifications	29-35
PIK3CA mutation	18-37
PTEN mutation	10-50
NFI mutation	16-21
HRAS mutation	4-27
KMT2C mutation	11
EGFR mutation	9
ALK mutation	7
CDKN2A mutation	7
NOTCH1 mutation	7
KDM5C mutation	7
NRAS mutation	4
BRAF mutation	3-7
AKT mutation	2



M/67 Parotid mass M/LN, brain







Splice variant of the androgen receptor mRNA resulting

in the truncation of the ligand-binding domain

■ Result of Actionable Gene Mutation Analysis

-SNV/INDEL

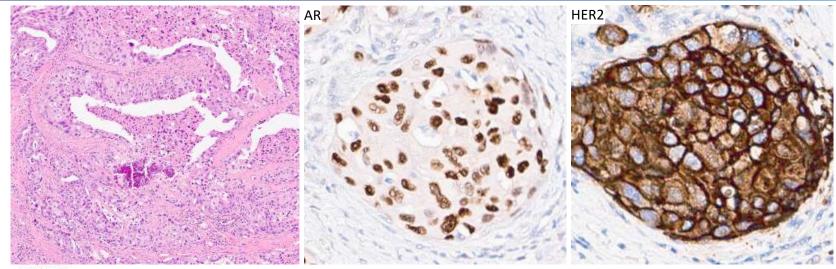
Gene	Chr	Position	Refseq	Exon	AA	CDS	%VAF	Alt	Total	Tier
ERBB2	chr17	37881000	NM_004448.3	20	p.Val777Leu	c.2329G>T	53.94	1492	2766	C

- Fusion

Fusion Gene	Cytoband1	Cytoband2	DNA.Evidence (Span/Split)	RNA.Evidence (Span/Split)	Transcript1	Transcript2	Last Observed	First Observed	Tier
AR-V7	Xq12	Xq12	0/0	0/50	NM_000044	NM_000044	EXON_3	EXON_CE3	D

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M/51 SMG mass



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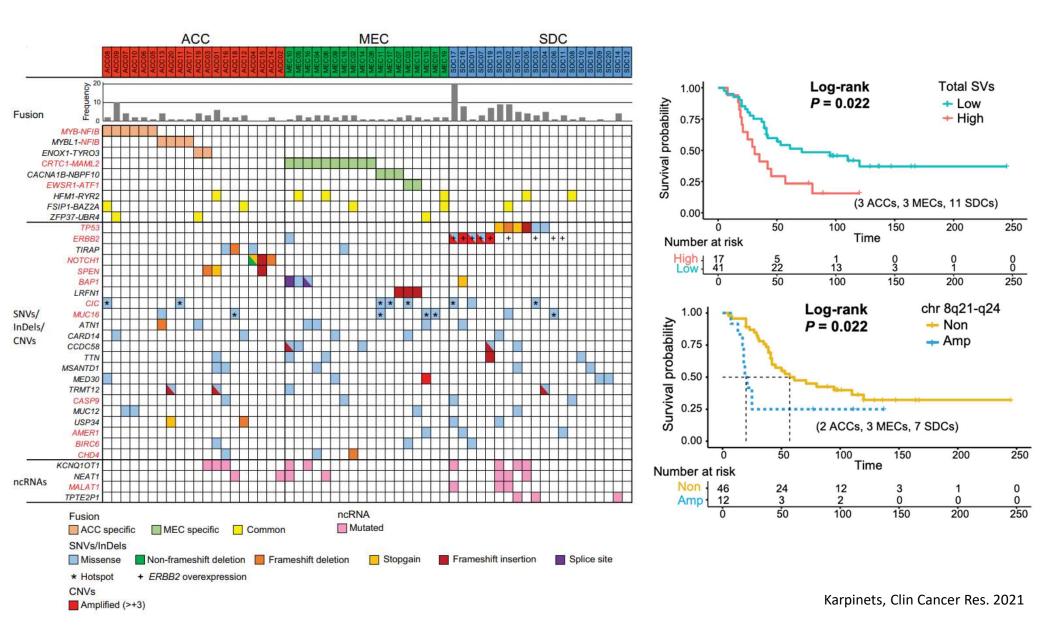
Gene	Chr	Position	Refseq	Exon	AA	CDS	%VAF	Alt	Total	Tier
NRAS	chrl	115258744	NM_002524.4	2	p.Gly13Asp	e,38G>A	1.27	26	2047	С
PBRM1	chr3	52668619	NM_018313.4	12	p.Arg434*	c.1300C>T	18.98	26	137	D
1P53	chr17	7578553	NM 000546.5	5	p.Tyr126Cys	e.377 ∆> G	28.56	347	1215	D

- Fusion

Fusion Gene	Cytoband1	Cytoband2	DNA.Evidence (Span/Split)	RNA.Evidence (Span/Split)	Transcript1	Transcript2	Last Observed	First Observed	Tier
Not detected									

-CNV

Gene	Chr	Start	End	CNV	AvgL2R	DelR	NeutralR	AmpR	CN	Tier
ERBB2	chr17	37855608	37884459	Amplification	2.974	0.0	0.0	1.0	14	С



Acinic cell carcinoma (AciCC)



Clinical features

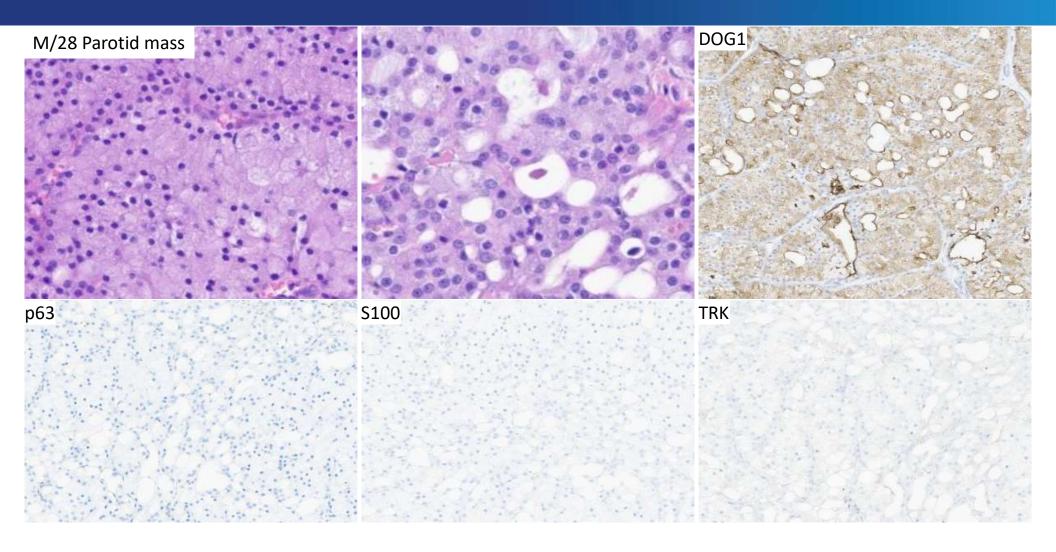
- 10% of all salivary gland malignancies; 90-95% of cases arise in the parotid gland; 18.7% of parotid carcinoma
- 2nd most common salivary gland malignancy in children; wide age range (average 47.7 52)

Histopathology

- Solid, microcystic, follicular, papillary-cystic architectures
- Most commonly serous acinar cell proliferation
 - → PAS-positive, diastase-resistant basophilic cytoplasmic zymogen granules
- Variable intercalated duct-type, nonspecific glandular, vacuolated, oncocytic, and rarely clear cells
- IHC
 - SOX10+, DOG1+ / p40-, p63-, mammaglobin-, S100-
- High grade transformation
 - → nuclear pleomorphism, coarse chromatin, necrosis, ↑mitotic activity/Ki-67 index, ↑ frequent perineural / LVI

Acinic cell carcinoma (AciCC)

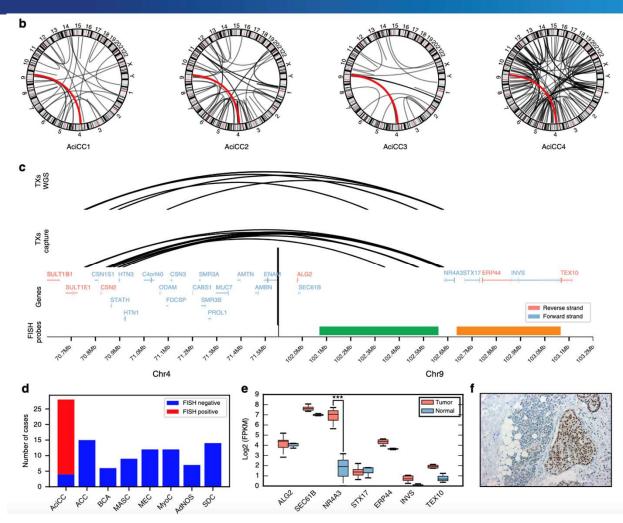




Acinic cell carcinoma (AciCC)

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- Molecular pathology
 - t(4;9)(q13;q31) rearrangement
 - → Active enhancer of secretory Cabinding phosphoprotein (SCPP) gene cluster at upstream of *NR4A3* gene
 - → Upregulation of *NR4A3* via enhancer hijacking
 - NR4A3 IHC
 - Sensitivity 94.4%; specificity 99%



Haller, Nat Commun. 2019 Haller, Am J Surg Pathol. 2019

Secretory carcinoma (SC)



Clinical features

- Painless slowly growing mass; parotid gland (m/c) > oral cavity > submandibular gland
- Mean patient age of 46.5 (range 10-86 years)

Histopathology

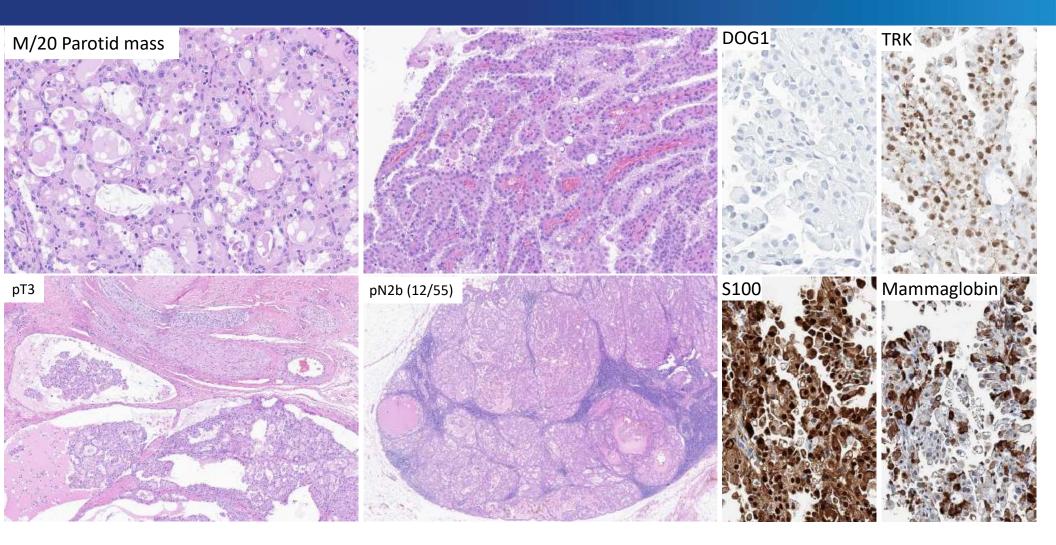
- Lobulated growth pattern separated by fibrous septa
- Microcystic/solid, tubular, follicular, and papillary-cystic structures with distinctive luminal secretions
- Low grade vesicular round-to-oval nuclei with finely granular chromatin and distinctive centrally located nucleoli
- Granular to vacuolated pale, pink cytoplasm
- Special stain/IHC
 - PAS, D-PAS, alcian-blue+ luminal secretions
 - CK7+ S100+, SOX10+, vimentin+, mammaglobin+
 - p63-, p40- DOG1-, NR4A3-

Molecular pathology

- 90% harbor t(12;15)(p13;q25) chromosomal rearrangement → ETV6::NTRK3 fusion
- Rarer rearrangements include ETV6::RET, ETV6::MET, ETV6::MAML3, VIM::RET

Secretory carcinoma (SC)





Basal cell adenocarcinoma (BCAC)



Clinical features

- Slow growing nodule in parotid gland (>90%) in 6th-7th decades
- About 15% occur in the setting of familial/multiple cylindromatosis syndromes
- Complete surgical excision is curative in >90%
- Regional lymph node and distant metastasis and disease related death are rare (<10%)

Histopathology

- Tubulo-trabecular, membranous, solid growth patterns
- Tumor nests show peripheral palisading of dark cells with paler cells and centrally located ducts
- DDx BCAC from basal cell adenoma (BCA)
 - Infiltration; necrosis; mitosis (>4 per 2mm²)
- IHC
 - Epithelial and myoepithelial markers highlights the dual cell components
 - Nuclear β-catenin immunoexpression: BCAC (66.7%-100%); BCA (70%-100%)

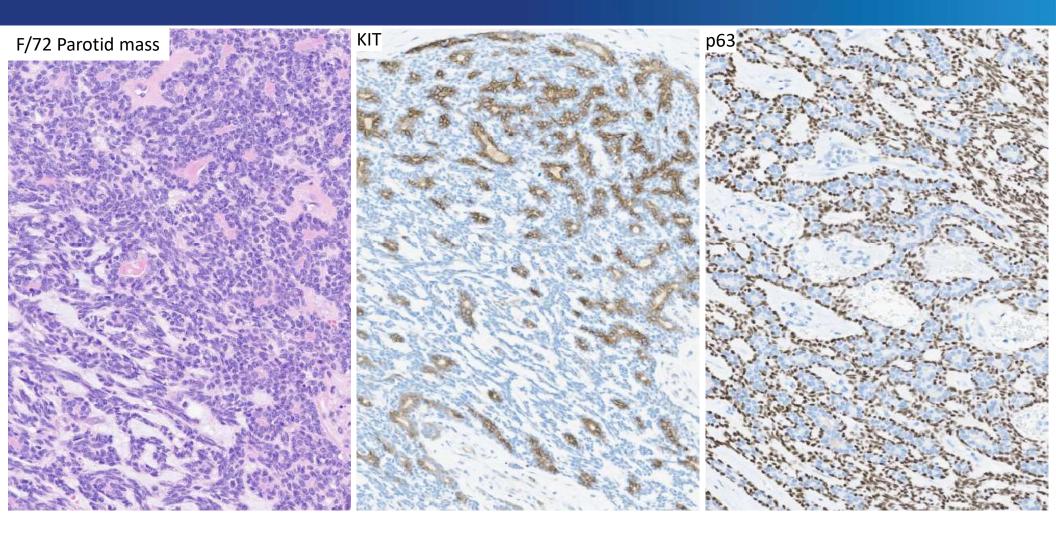
Molecular pathology

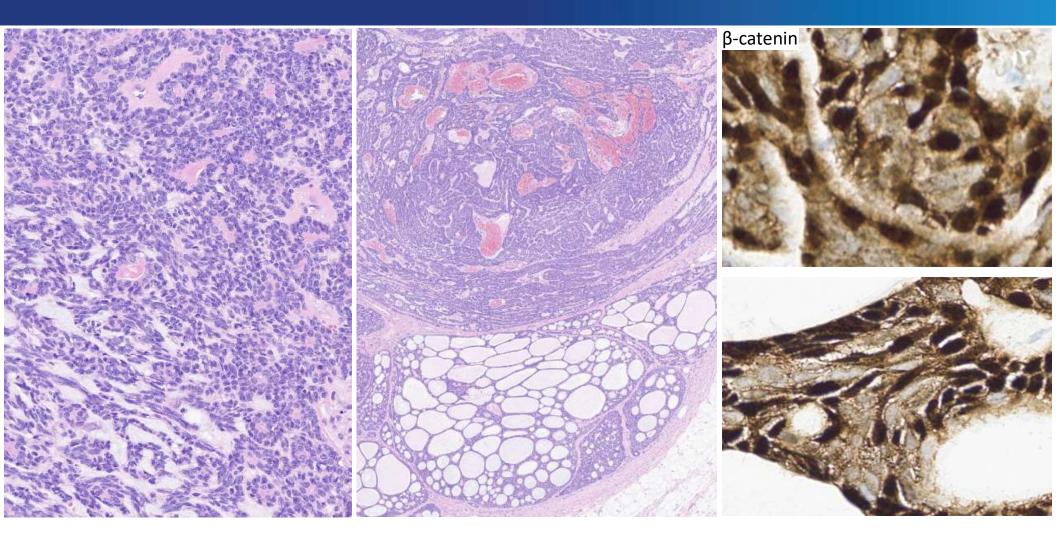
- Diagnostic feature: none
- CTNNB1 mutations: more common in BCA than BCAC
- Other genetic profiles of BCAC
 - Activating mutations in PIK3CA, biallelic inactivation of NFKBIA, focal CYLD deletion

Jung, Diagn Pathol. 2013 Jo, Am J Surg Pathol. 2016

Basal cell adenocarcinoma (BCAC)

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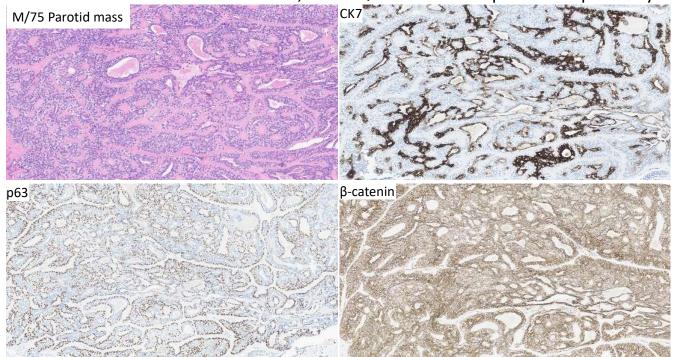




Epithelial-myoepithelial carcinoma (EMC)



- Clinical features
 - 1% of all salivary gland tumors mostly affecting parotid gland in 6th-7th decades
- Histopathology
 - Biphasic tubules → tightly coupled inner eosinophilic ductal and prominent outer (often clear) myoepithelial cells
- Molecular pathology
 - HRAS codon 61 mutation in 82.7%; HRAS Q61R mutation-specific IHC positivity in 65%



Urano, Am J Surg Pathol. 2019 Nakaguro, Am J Surg Pathol. 2021



Clinical features

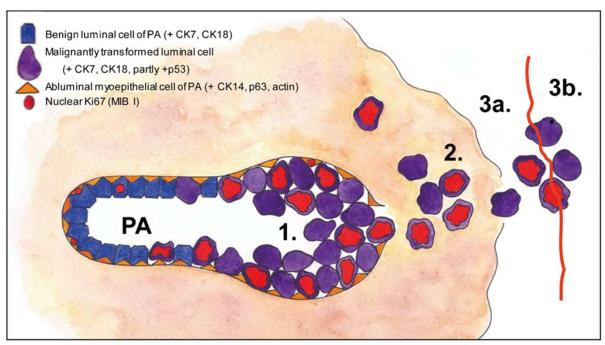
- Epithelial and/or myoepithelial malignancy in association with a primary or recurrent pleomorphic adenoma (PA), presenting at 6th-7th decades
- Long-standing painless mass with recent rapid progression or of previous diagnosis of PA
- · Most commonly at parotid gland
- Aggressive tumors with local and distant recurrence rates of 70%; 5-year survival from 25% to 75%
 - Poor prognostic factors: invasive CXPA, large size > 4 cm, multiple LN+, distant metastasis

Histopathology

- PA and carcinoma components can be intermixed or appear as discrete nodules
- Histologic types of malignant components
 - Most commonly SDC > myoepithelial carcinoma > adenocarcinoma, NOS
 - Rarely carcinosarcoma: malignant epithelial and sarcomatous components arising in association with a PA

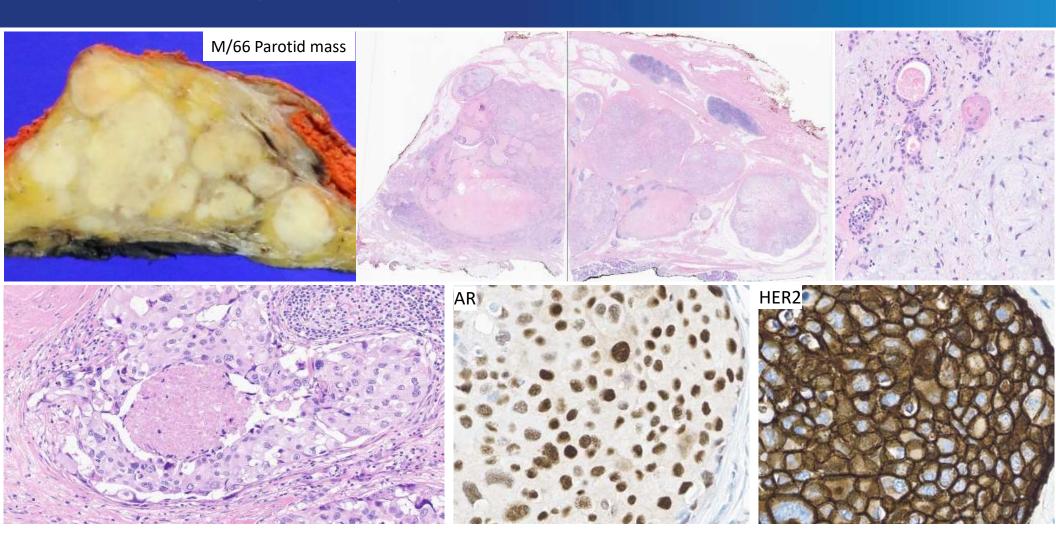


- Histopathology Subclassification
 - Based on the extent of invasion beyond PA borders
 - 1) Intracapsular: carcinoma is confined within the PA capsule
 - In situ intracapsular when the malignant tumor cells replace ductal cells with an intact myoepithelial layer
 - 2) Minimally invasive: carcinoma invades < 4 6 mm beyond the PA borders
 - 3) Invasive: invasion beyond the PA capsule measures ≥ 6mm



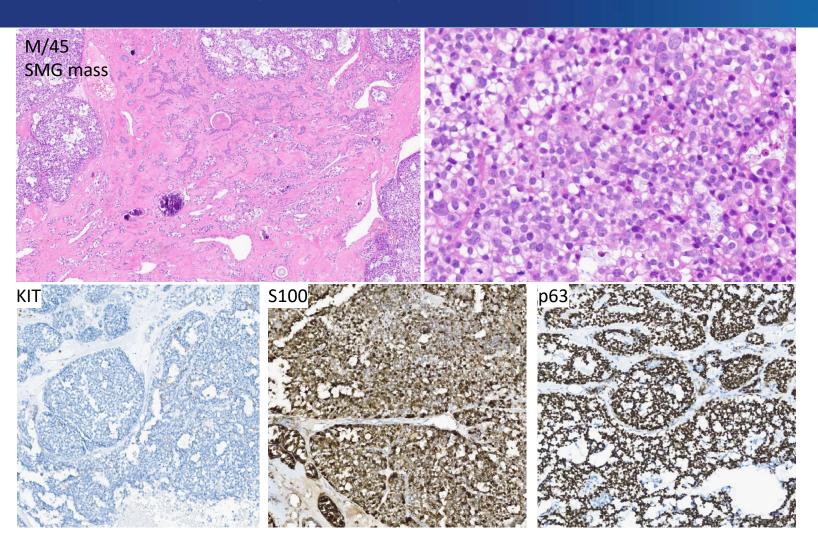
Ihrler, Virchows Arch. 2017

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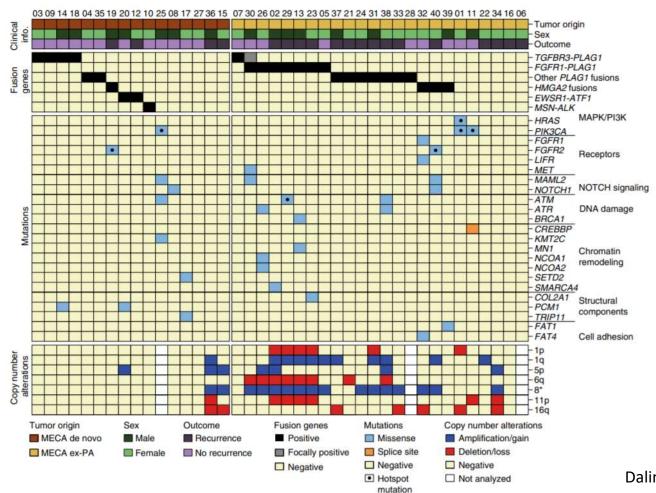


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Carcinoma ex pleomorphic adenoma (CXPA)



Molecular pathology



Dalin, Nat Commun. 2017

Myoepithelial carcinoma (MC)

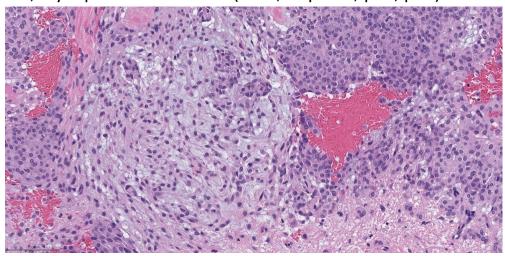


Clinical features

Parotid gland followed by the palate, and the submandibular gland

Histopathology

- De novo or CXPA (2nd most common histologic subtype of CXPA)
- Diverse cellular morphology including spindle, epithelioid, plasmacytoid, vacuolated, and clear cells
- Solid, trabecular, and reticular growth patterns
- Myxoid, myxochondroid or hyalinized stroma
- IHC
 - SOX10+, S100+, CK+, myoepithelial markers+ (SMA, calponin, p63, p40)



Hyalinizing clear cell carcinoma (HCCC)



Clinical features

- Mostly at oral minor salivary glands > oropharynx, nasopharynx, parotid, sinonasal tract, larynx, and hypopharynx
- Median age at diagnosis of 56 years (range 23-87 years)

Histopathology

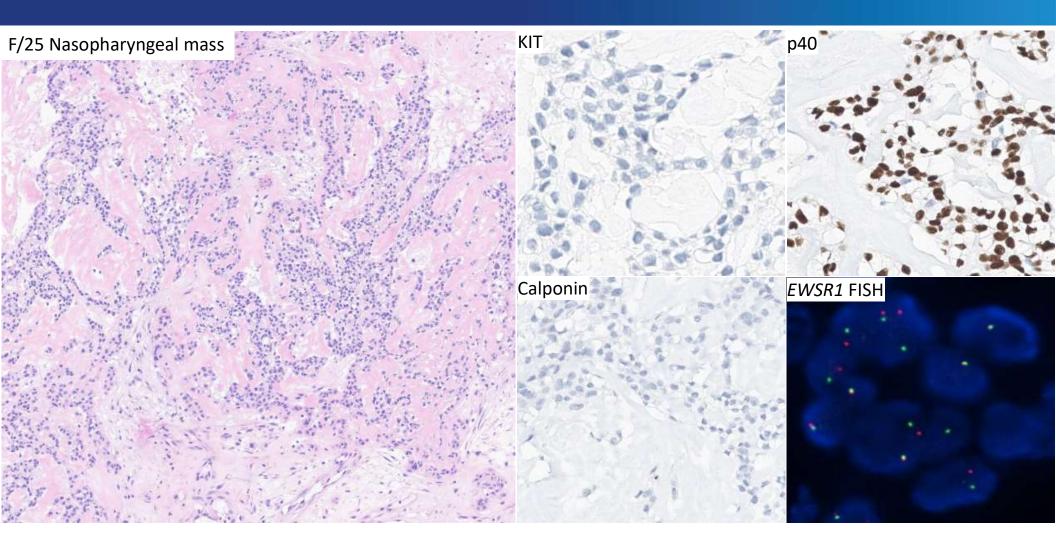
- Nests, cords and trabeculae composed of clear or eosinophilic cells
 - Some cases completely lack clear cells
- Unencapsulated with cells infiltrating the surrounding tissue
- Densely hyalinized basement membrane-like to desmoplastic or fibrocellular stroma
- IHC
 - CK7+, CK19+, CK14+, EMA+
 - P63+, p40+, CK5/6+ → supporting squamous differentiation
 - Negative for myoepithelial markers (\$100, \$MA, calponin)

Molecular pathology

EWSR1::ATF1; rarer fusion including EWSR1::CREM

Hyalinizing clear cell carcinoma (HCCC)

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Summary



	Gene and mechanism	Prevalence
AdCC	MYB fusion/activation/amplification	~80%
	MYBL1 fusion/activation/amplification	~10%
	NOTCH mutations	14%
MEC	CRTC1::MAML2	40-90%
	CRTC3::MAML2	6%
	CDKN2A deletion	25%
SDC	ERBB2 amplification	31%
	FGFR1 amplification	10%
	TP53 mutation	56%
	PIK3CA mutation	33%
	HRAS mutation	33%
	AR copy gain	35%
	PTEN loss	38%
	CDKN2A loss	10%

	Gene and mechanism	Prevalence
AciCC	NR4A3 fusion/activation	86%
	MSANTD3 fusion/amplification	4%
SC	ETV6::NTRK3 fusion	> 90%
	ETV6::RET fusion	2–5%
	ETV6::MET fusion	<1%
	ETV6::MAML3 fusion	<1%
	VIM::RET fusion	<1%
BCAC	CYLD mutations	29%
CXPA	PLAG1 fusions/amplification	73%
	HMGA2 fusions/amplification	14%
	TP53 mutations	60%
EMC	HRAS mutations	78%
MC	PLAG1 fusions	38%
	EWSR1::ATF1 fusions	13%
HCCC	EWSR1::ATF1 fusions	93%
	EWSR1::CREM fusions	<5%

