Hybrid Odontogenic Tumor with COC and Multiple Variants of Ameloblastoma - A Rare Case Report

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Abstract

Ameloblastomas do not generally show evidence of induction, however rare cases associated with odontome have been reported and are referred to as odontoameloblastoma. This article presents an unusual case of multiple histopathological variants of ameloblastoma with evidence of induction of dentinoid by tumor cells but without concomitant formation of enamel along with features of ghost cells. The lesion occurred on the left side of the maxilla in a 31-year old female. Case management has been described and implications are discussed.

Keywords: Adenoid ameloblastoma; Dentinoid; Ghost cells; Odontogenic tumor

Introduction

Odontogenic cysts and tumors comprise a group of lesions that are rather diverse histopathologically because of their complexity and prolonged process of odontogenesis. In 1971, the WHO published its first internationally agreed classification of odontogenic tumors and cysts, entitled “Histological typing of odontogenic tumors and jaw cysts and allied lesions” which included the proposed criteria for designation, and a standard nomenclature. During the interim period, new variants and entities have undoubtedly emerged [1]. Odontogenic tumors composed of two or more distinct types of lesions are rare and unusual. As neoplastic and hamartomatous aberrations can occur at any stage of odontogenesis, combined features of odontogenic tumors may arise. Moreover, tumors which are classified into the group of epithelial tumors without odontogenic mesenchyme, like ameloblastoma and Adenomatoid Odontogenic Tumor (AOT), may show evidence of dentinoid induction. Ameloblastoma is the most primitive odontogenic tumor and although it is characterized by a wide variety of histological appearances, it does not generally show evidence of induction, with the exception of odontoameloblastoma. However, rare cases of ameloblastoma showing evidence of dentinoid induction by tumor cells but without concomitant formation of enamel are reported [2,3].

The so called Calcifying odontogenic cyst (COC) is the most elusive and controversial lesion. COC contains two entities: a cyst and a tumor. The latter has been called as dentinogenic ghost cell tumor, epithelial odontogenic ghost cell tumor, or odontogenic ghost cell tumor (OGCT). It is well known that the proliferating epithelium in COC shares several features with ameloblastoma. Clinically OGCT has been aggressive and locally destructive, very similar to the behavior of ameloblastoma. Ellis suggested that two features distinguish OGCTs from ameloblastomas. The first is ghost cells. These cells are an essential requisite for the diagnosis of OGCT, but they are occasionally seen in other odontogenic lesions such as odontoma, ameloblastic fibro odontoma, odontoameloblastoma, ameloblastic fibrodentinoma and glandular odontogenic cyst. A few ghost cells have also been found in simple ameloblastoma. The second distinguishing feature is dentinoid induction, but dentinoid may be present in conventional ameloblastoma- dentinoameloblastoma as described within the later section in this treatise [1]. This case reports a rare odontogenic tumor with similar histopathological features.

Case Report

A 30 year old female patient reported to the outpatient department with the chief complaint of a painless swelling on the left side of the face since six months. Initially the swelling was small and gradually attained the present size of 6×2 cm. Numbness was associated with the swelling. heaviness and stuffiness on the left cheek and left side of the nose was also noted. Patient complained of a change in her voice over a period of time. On examination, a diffuse extraoral swelling was present on the left side of the face approximately 6×2 cm in size. Anteroposteriorly, the swelling extended from the ala of the nose to the tragus of the ear. Superioinferiorly, the swelling extended from the edge of the nose to the tragus of the ear. (Figure 1). Intraorally, there was bicortical expansion of the maxilla extending from the incisor area to the maxillary area. All the teeth on the left side of the maxilla were absent other than the central incisor of the same side (Figure 2). Coronal CT bone

Figure 1: Painless swelling on the left side of the face since six months.
window showed a large homogenous soft tissue mass occupying the left maxillary sinus encroaching into the left nasal cavity and ethmoid sinus. Anterior wall of maxillary sinus, the palatine process and zygomatic process of the left side are not seen. The axial CT in soft tissue window showed a large homogenous encapsulated mass with multiple septae occupying the entire maxillary sinus and encroaching into the nasal cavity. Anterior wall of maxillary sinus and zygomatic process are missing (Figure 3a and 3b).

Patient had a past dental history of treatment for a similar swelling 6 years back. The histopathological diagnosis was that of an AOT. It recurred three years later and the histopathology report revealed it to be a follicular ameloblastoma.

Segmental resection of the left maxilla was done and submitted for pathologic examination.

**Histopathological Report**

Haematoxylin and eosin stained section showed a cystic lining composed of odontogenic epithelium. The epithelium showed low cuboidal to flattened squamous type cells containing small and oval basophilic nuclei. Extending from the lining was an arrangement of cuboidal basophilic cells with occasional stellate reticulum like cells that formed microcystic spaces or pseudocysts. The pseudocysts were lined by cuboidal cells yielding an adenoid cribriform pattern. The cells which were ameloblasts like showed reversal of polarity and were arranged in a pattern resembling a plexiform ameloblastoma. Certain areas showed epithelial nests containing basaloid cells with nuclear polarization. Few areas showed dysplastic dentin formation but did not show the evidence of any dentinal tubules. In addition, collection of ghost cells suggestive of COC was observed (Figure 4).

**Discussion**

Elaborate review of English language literature and the search for published cases revealed that there are 13 reported cases of odontogenic tumors that have histopathological features similar to ameloblastoma with formation of hard tissue resembling dentinoid.

Upon reviewing the case reports, an observation of a wide range of age distribution from 4 years and 11 months to 42 years, with a mean age of 26.5 years was noted. Out of 13 cases, 8 were male and 5 were female, with a male: female ratio of 2:1.2. The most common site for occurrence was the posterior mandible. Tajima et al. [4], Takeda [6], Matsumoto et al. [7], Orlowski et al. [8], Ghasemi-Moradani and Yazdi [5] and Dunlap and Fritzlen [9] showed histopathological features of adenomatoid odontogenic tumor and ameloblastoma, most commonly plexiform type.

The case reported by Slabbert et al. [10] showed features of only ameloblastoma. In the present case histopathological features showed plexiform type of ameloblastoma along with basaloid features and adenoid pattern. The ameloblast like cells showed reversal of polarity and were arranged in a pattern resembling a plexiform ameloblastoma. The other authors reported an inductive phenomena or a hard tissue formation with dentinoid like material. In the present case, a unique histological feature was the evidence of ghost cells which was positive for Van
Geisons stain (Figure 5). Modified Galligo’s staining was performed to confirm the presence of dentinoid (Figure 6). Congo red staining was performed to exclude the presence of amyloid which may be a feature of AOT. Takeda [6] reported formation of bone whereas Dunlap and Fritzlen [9] and Tajima et al. [4] described the formation of enamel matrix. This may suggest the possibility that neoplastic cells of pure epithelial tumors are involved in the synthesis of hard tissue.

The prognosis of this composite odontogenic tumor is determined by the treatment provided. The presence of multiple histological components in a lesion begs the question of how a combined lesion should be treated. Wide local resection is the treatment of choice for these tumors. In our case, surgical resection of left side of maxilla was performed and the patient was kept under follow up. There was no sign of recurrence 6 months post operatively (Figure 7).

Conclusion

Hybrid Odontogenic lesions are rare, displaying two or more histopathological patterns. Data on behavior of these lesions is scarce since they are not commonly reported and they do not fit well into the current diagnostic taxonomy.

The case reported here is unique in that it is a hybrid neoplasm with three histopathological features of ameloblastoma i.e. plexiform, basaloid and adenoid pattern along with ghost cells suggestive of COC. Further, the nature of hard tissue, dentin or dentinoid like material in these lesions is the result of a metaplastic process or represents a true inductive phenomenon that is yet to be clarified.

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