

PROGNOSTIC INDICATORS AND SURVIVAL RATES AMONGST PATIENTS WITH CARCINOMA EX PLEOMORPHIC ADENOMA IN NOVA SCOTIA

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OTOLARYNGOLOGY

BACKGROUND: Carcinoma ex pleomorphic adenoma (Ca ex PA) is a rare malignancy that arises from primary or recurrent benign pleomorphic adenoma. Although it is aggressive in nature, survival rates vary throughout the literature due to differences in the distribution of important prognosticators. The present study investigated survival rates and prognostic factors amongst patients with Ca ex PA in Nova Scotia.

METHODS: A retrospective chart review was performed for 25 patients diagnosed with Ca ex PA who were seen at the Victoria General Hospital in the past 12 years. Medical charts were examined for survival and staging information, as well as tumour characteristics such as extent of invasion, treatment, and margin status.

RESULTS: Of the 25 cases of Ca ex PA examined, 76% originated in the parotid gland. Most malignancies (52%) were categorized as stage IV. Initial clinical staging was congruent with pathological staging in 72% of cases. Only 12% of malignancies invaded the tumour capsule while remaining confined to the gland; however, 48% displayed extra-glandular extension. Ninety-six percent of tumours were surgically resected, with negative margins in 56.5% of cases. Adjuvant therapy was used to treat 80% of tumours. Throughout the study period, three recurrences and two disease-specific deaths occurred. The 2- and 5-year overall and disease-free survivals were 93.8%/80% and 81.8%/61.5%, respectively.

CONCLUSION: Despite the prevalence of negative prognostic indicators, survival rates amongst patients with Ca ex PA in Nova Scotia were higher than those reported elsewhere. Patients were effectively treated with surgery and adjuvant therapy. Longer follow-up is needed to improve Ca ex PA research.