Cavernous haemangioma of the submandibular salivary gland


Abstract. Salivary gland haemangioma is more common in the parotid gland than in any other salivary gland. Parotid haemangioma is considered to be the most common salivary gland tumour in infants, but is also occasionally encountered in adults. A case of cavernous haemangioma affecting the submandibular salivary gland in an adult woman is presented. The striking histological feature is the presence of numerous vascular channels assuming a periductal arrangement.

Key words: haemangioma; submandibular salivary gland; ultrasonography.

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Fig. 1. Large blood-filled sinusoidal space involving interlobular stromal tissue. Note parenchymatous tissue to the right. (H&E×40).

Fig. 2. High magnification from Fig. 1 showing periductal arrangement of blood capillaries (H&E×100).

Treatment of salivary gland haemangioma could be by injection of sclerosing solutions, embolization or observation, as some infantile lesions have been reported to undergo spontaneous regression. Surgery should only be performed if the tumour is enlarging. The lack of haemorrhage during the operation could be attributed to the fact that surgery was aimed at removal of the whole gland rather than cutting through it, as well as the intraglandular origin of the tumour.

The occurrence of haemangioma in the salivary gland in association with a tuberculous lymph node in the same region was coincidental. The pain in the submandibular area may have been attributable to this lymph node.

References


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