

Rare and Monstrous Evolution of a Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Nasal Cavity: A Clinical Image

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ABSTRACT

We report an unusual course of squamous cell carcinoma of the nasal cavity. The tumour spread to the facial regions resulting in severe loss of tissue. This case highlights the importance of early management of nasal cavity tumours.

KEYWORDS

Head and neck cancer; Paranasal sinus cancer; Squamous cell carcinoma of the nasal cavity

OBSERVATION

A 25-year-old woman was diagnosed with a well-differentiated non-keratinizing invasive squamous cell carcinoma of the nasal cavity 2 years ago, initially presenting as endonasal vegetation. Refusing surgery and radio chemotherapy, she was lost to follow-up. In the current admission, she has several ulcerating lesions and monstrous destruction of the face, exposing the endobuccal structures (Figure 1). The squamous cell carcinoma spread to the facial regions and oral cavity with loss of substance of the face.

Approximately 50%-60% of cases are squamous cell carcinomas, 30% of which are non-keratinizing [2]. The maxillary sinus is the most affected (60%) followed by the nasal cavity (25%). The incidence of squamous cell carcinoma of the nasal cavity peaks in the 6th and 7th decades with a male predominance [3]. Squamous cell carcinoma of the nasal cavity usually extends to the skull base and brain [3]. Extension to the facial regions is rare, resulting in major cosmetic problems. Based on this observation, it is important not to overlook squamous cell carcinoma of the nasal cavity in the initial phase.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Cancers of the paranasal sinuses and nasal cavity account for 3% of all head and neck cancers [1].

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

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AVAILABILITY OF DATA

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Figure 1: Photograph of the patient showing ulcerating lesions and destruction of facial tissue with loss of substance.

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