

## Case Report

# Sialolipoma: An Interesting and Rare Tumor of the Submandibular Gland

Satvinder Singh Bakshi, Anandraj K. Vaithy<sup>1</sup>

Departments of ENT and Head and Neck Surgery and <sup>1</sup>Pathology, Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute, Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth, Puducherry, India

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### ABSTRACT

Salivary glands containing coexisting lipomatous lesions are rare and have only been identified recently as a distinct entity; one of these lesions is a sialolipoma. The characteristic feature of these tumors is a benign proliferation of mature adipose tissue along with normal salivary gland features. We describe a case of a slowly enlarging mass in the submandibular region of a 45-year-old male which on excision was reported as sialolipoma

**KEYWORDS:** *Lipoma, sialolipoma, submandibular gland*

## INTRODUCTION

A 48-year-old male patient presented with a 5-month history of a gradually progressive swelling on the left side of his neck. There was no pain or increase in size on taking food. On examination, a 4 cm × 3 cm, firm, bidigitally palpable swelling was seen in the right submandibular region [Figure 1]. The submandibular duct was normal, and no neck nodes were palpable. Fine-needle aspiration cytology from the mass was reported as pleomorphic adenoma. A submandibular sialoadenectomy was performed, and the histopathology revealed salivary gland tissue along with the proliferation of mature adipose tissue, with thin fibrous tissue septa suggestive of sialolipoma [Figure 2]. The patient is on regular follow-up, and there is no evidence of recurrence at 15 months of follow-up. Lipoma is the most common soft-tissue tumor of adulthood. Although they are common in the head-and-neck area, they are quite rare in the salivary glands with maximum cases reported in the parotid gland.<sup>[1-3]</sup> Lipomas are classified as simple lipoma, fibrolipoma, angioliipoma, spindle cell lipoma, and pleomorphic lipoma. Sialolipoma was first described by Nagao *et al.*, in 2001,<sup>[1,2]</sup> as a rare and a newer variant of salivary gland tumors. It is a benign lipomatous growth of the salivary glands with mature adipose tissue and represents only 0.3% of all salivary gland tumors in adults.<sup>[3]</sup> Microscopically, the differential diagnosis includes lesions with extensive adipose tissue proliferation, such as lipomatosis and pleomorphic adenoma with extensive adipose content.<sup>[3,4]</sup> On the basis

of the benign nature of sialolipoma, conservative surgical excision has been regarded to suffice as treatment, and neither local recurrence nor malignant transformation has been reported.<sup>[5]</sup>

## CONCLUSION

We present a case of sialolipoma of the submandibular gland, which is extremely rare. Only a high index of suspicion and detailed histological study can lead to the definitive diagnosis of this tumor. Sialolipoma although



**Figure 1:** Patient with the right submandibular swelling

### Address for correspondence:

Dr. Satvinder Singh Bakshi,  
E-mail: [saty.bakshi@gmail.com](mailto:saty.bakshi@gmail.com)

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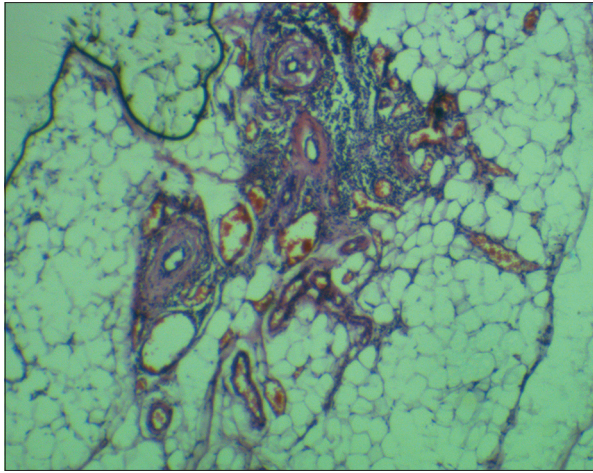
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**Figure 2:** Histopathology showing fibrosis of glandular parenchyma, acinar atrophy proliferation of mature adipocytes, and dense inflammatory cell infiltration (H and E, ×40)

a rare, should be kept in mind during differential diagnosis of lesions of the submandibular gland, showing lipomatous proliferation.

#### **Declaration of patient consent**

The authors certify that they have obtained all appropriate patient consent forms. In the form the patient(s) has/have given his/her/their consent for his/her/their images and other clinical information to be

reported in the journal. The patients understand that their names and initials will not be published and due efforts will be made to conceal their identity, but anonymity cannot be guaranteed.

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#### **Conflicts of interest**

There are no conflicts of interest.

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