

## Snuff (Tombac) Dipping Verrucous Carcinoma: A Case Report

Yousif I Eltohami, Nour E Alim, Ahmed M Suleiman and Amal H Abuaffan\*

Faculty of Dentistry, University of Khartoum, Sudan

\*Corresponding author: Amal H Abuaffan, Faculty of Dentistry, University of Khartoum, Sudan, Tel: 00249912696035; E-mail: amalabuaffan@yahoo.com

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### Abstract

Oral verrucous carcinoma is a clinico-pathological variant of OSCC. The most frequent affected sites intraoral are the mucosa of the buccal area and alveolus, also the gingiva. It's a locally aggressive tumor. Generally it is related to tobacco use specially the chewed and snuffed types, hence it named "snuff dipper's cancer", the recurrence is high due to the dysplastic cells around the tumor. This is a case of Sudanese male diagnosed with verrucous carcinoma in the Oral and Maxillofacial Clinic.

**Keywords:** Verrucous carcinoma; Oral cavity; Snuffs dipping

### Introduction

Verrucous carcinoma is one of squamous cell carcinoma variants that have a low- malignancy grading, it is rarely show distant metastasis, earliest it describe by several names; florid papillomatosis, epithelioma cuniculatum, verrucous squamous cell carcinoma, oral florid verrucosis, verruca acuminata, papillomatosis mucosa carcinoides, snuff dipper's cancer, Buschke-Loewenstein tumor, and carcinoma cuniculatum. In 1970s it names as "verrucous carcinoma" or "Ackerman's tumor" [1,2].

It tends to grow gradually, invade locally with no metastasis. Clinically it resembles a cauliflower and present as white, outward growing plaque attached by a wide base, warty with no pain. Men at the age of sixties to seventies affected more than women. Intraoral, the most frequent sites involved are; the mucosa buccally, the alveolar crest of the mandible, tongue and gingiva [3]. Chewing tobacco is a major etiological factor. Lesions frequently grow at the site of habitually placed tobacco [4].

Surgical excision is the preferred treatment, even though surgery can give satisfactory results, but frequent revision is obligatory due to the increase risk of second tumors [5]. Surgery followed by radiotherapy is second most superior way of management especially in advanced cases; the Recurrence is common in cases managed by single modality treatment [6]. There is high possible presence of adjacent altered mucosa around the tumor, this confirm the importance of a wider surgical excision with adequate margins and need for close follow up [7].

### Case Scenario

A Sudanese male 64 years old presented with painless whitish ulcerative lesion started 10 months ago. The patient had a smoking history for 25 years, dipped snuff for more than 20 years (he did not rinse after use the snuff and sleep with it), denied any history of alcohol abuse and he had controlled hypertension.

Clinical examinations showed a non-tender whitish corrugated exophytic diffuse ulcer with averted edges and irregular margins without apparent discharge affect the gingiva, labial, buccal mucosa

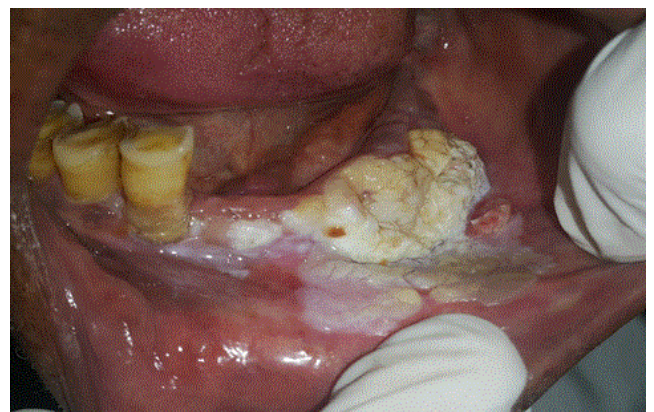
and alveolar ridge from the left side of the mandible and cross the midline (Figure 1). No sub- mandibular or cervical lymphadenopathy.

Incisional biopsies from different sites (field mapping) were examined Histopathological and revealed characteristic features of verrucous carcinoma with no evidence of squamous cell carcinoma. CT scan with contrast showed no apparent sub-mandibular or cervical lymph nodes with slight bone erosion in the affected region of the mandible.

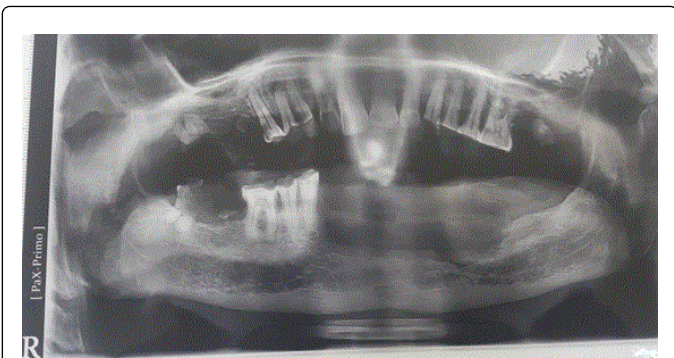
Treatment modality was resection of the tumor and the marginal bone of the mandible anterior, with a safety margins. Post-operative examination of the tumor's margins histological revealed all margins were free.

Post-operative digital OPG revealed wide marginal resection of the mandible (Figure 2). Patient was planned for continuous meticulous follow-up.

Figures 3 and 4 showed healing of the surgical wound after two and five weeks, respectively.



**Figure 1:** Shows whitish corrugated exophytic diffuse ulcer with averted edges and irregular margins affect the gingiva, labial, buccal mucosa and alveolar ridge of the mandible.



**Figure 2:** DPT x-ray revealed wide marginal resection of the mandible with safety margins.



**Figure 3:** Showed partial healing of the surgical wounds after two weeks postoperatively.



**Figure 4:** Shows complete healing of the surgical wounds after five weeks postoperatively.

## Discussion

Oral Verrucous carcinoma is a variant of OSCC confirm a squat degree of malignancy, appear most commonly in the oral region with a percentage of 2-12% of all neoplasm's [2]. It has a unique appearance clinically; it is typically large in size, exophytic, soft, irregular, slow

growing tumors. It is usually present as a diffuse, clear bounded, elevated whitish outward growing with no pain looks like a cauliflower [3,8,9].

The most common age group is the sixties and seventies with a male predilection [10]. In literature the most common site reported was the buccal mucosa [11,12] while other authors reported more involvement of the alveolar ridge and gingiva [13,14] in this case the clinical findings are the same as to the above regarding site, age and characteristic features.

In verrucous carcinoma, regional lymph nodes are often tender and enlarged because of inflammatory involvement, simulating metastatic tumor [15], lymph nodes were not affected in our cases.

The causative factors of Verrucous carcinoma could be Human papilloma virus (HPV), Smoking, bad oral hygiene, leukoplakic lesions oral lichenoid [10]. Tobacco was the major origin factor of verrucous lesions often develop at the site where the tobacco was placed habitually [3], which was in agreement with the Sudanese patient causative factor, snuff dipping (tombak).

Surgery is the first line of treatment for verrucous carcinoma [1]. In current case, patient had been treated with surgical excision. Radiotherapy may alter the tumor nature into squamous cell carcinoma poorly differentiated type [16].

In cases of non surgical intervention, other treatment modalities such as cytostatic drugs may be preferred; a interferon (IFN) seems to support the therapy by delaying the growth of the tumor but does not take the place of surgery alone [6].

## Conclusion

Verrucous carcinoma is characteristic because it tends to invade locally, no metastasize and has unique clinical features. Multiple biopsies must be done to exclude classic squamous cell component. Also recommends complete excision and close follow-up, more care must be achieved by clinicians regarding warty and exophytic lesions intraorally.

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