

## Clinical and Histopathological Characteristic of Salivary Gland Carcinoma in Dr. Hasan Sadikin General Hospital in 2009–2012

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### Abstract

**Background:** Salivary gland neoplasm is one of the rare neoplasm. The frequency of this neoplasm is lower than 2% of all type of tumors in human. Malignant salivary gland tumor comprises 6% of all head and neck tumors. Data about salivary gland carcinoma are still limited. The aim of this study was to determine the frequency of malignant salivary gland based on the patients' age, gender, site of lesion and histopathology type.

**Methods:** This study was conducted descriptively. There were 97 subjects found from histopathological form that had been examined in Department of Anatomical Pathology, Dr. Hasan Sadikin General Hospital in 2009–2012. Total sampling technique was used and all data about patients' age, gender, site of lesion and histopathology type were collected and analyzed.

**Results:** Of 97 cases, age group 50–59 years old had the highest frequency (29%). The prevalence in male was more frequent than female with male:female ratio was 1.4:1. The most common site of carcinoma was found in parotid gland (45%). Mucoepidermoid carcinoma was the most common histopathology type found in this study (28%).

**Conclusions:** Salivary gland carcinoma is still a rare malignant case in Dr. Hasan Sadikin General Hospital. Carcinoma in parotid gland was the most common site and mucoepidermoid carcinoma was the most common histopathology type. [AMJ.2016;3(1):54–8]

**Keywords:** Carcinoma, histopathology, salivary gland

### Introduction

Salivary gland neoplasm is one of the rare neoplasms. Department of Ear Nose Throat (ENT) Wrocław, Polska reported that 304 salivary glands tumor patient were with 83.9% benign tumor and 16.1% malignant tumor in 2001–2010.<sup>1</sup> Its peak incidence was varied according to the previous studies. Most of them reported that salivary gland tumor reached the incident peak in sixth-seven decade of life.<sup>2</sup>

Five years life expectancy ranged between 5–95% depend on various factors including site of lesion, histopathology type, stage of tumor and the involvement of facial nerve or surrounding structure. Original site of salivary glands cancer is one of significant factors. Cancer that can be excised fully from parotid gland has the better result, followed by submandibular gland, sublingual gland and minor salivary glands.<sup>3</sup> Based on the background above and

limited data about salivary gland carcinoma, the study was conducted concerning salivary glands carcinoma based on patients' age, gender, site of lesion and histopathological type in Department of Anatomical Pathology Dr. Hasan Sadikin General Hospital.

### Methods

This study was carried out from September–The subject of the study was taken from the histopathological form of the patients in Department of Anatomical Pathology, Dr. Hasan Sadikin General Hospital from January 2009 to December 2012 that were selected using total sampling method. This method was carried out from September–October 2013 in Department of Anatomical Pathology. This study was approved by Health Research Ethics Committee. The inclusion criteria was all the medical records of patients diagnosed

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as salivary gland carcinoma. The incomplete data of histopathological form was excluded from this study. This descriptive study used retrospective methods.

Variables of this study were patients' age and gender, site of lesion and histopathology type. All cases were classified according to the criteria suggested by 2005 World Health Organization (WHO) histological classification. Data were collected and analyzed using Microsoft Excel 2007. The frequency and percentage of the mentioned variable were calculated. Collected data from medical records were kept confidentially and vanished after the research was done.

## Results

During 2009–2012, 97 cases of salivary gland carcinoma were found in Department of Anatomical Pathology, Dr. Hasan Sadikin General Hospital.

Patients' age for cases was ranged from 6–86 years old. The cases increased along with

the increasing of age. The peak of salivary gland carcinoma was in the fifth decade of life. The lowest case were found in first and eighth decade of life.

Mucoepidermoid carcinoma was the most common of all carcinoma in salivary gland, followed by squamous cell carcinoma, adenoid cystic carcinoma and acinic cell carcinoma. Mucoepidermoid carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma were distributed widely in the age group and had the peak in fifth decade of life. The peak of acinic cell carcinoma was in third decade of life (Table 1).

Salivary gland carcinoma was more frequent in male than female with male:female ratio was 1.4:1 and the most common histopathological type of tumor was mucoepidermoid carcinoma in both male and female (Table 2).

Almost half of the cases were found in parotid gland, followed by minor salivary glands, submandibular gland and sublingual gland. Mucopidermoid carcinoma was mostly found in parotid gland. Adenoid cystic carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma

**Table 1 Histopathological Type of Salivary Gland Carcinoma based on Age Group**

Histopathology	Age (years)									Total
	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	
Acinic cell carcinoma		1		5	1	1		1		9
Mucoepidermoid carcinoma		2	1	5	6	10	2	1		27
Adenoid cystic carcinoma		2	1	2		5	3			13
Polymorphous low-grade adenocarcinoma		1	1		2					4
Clear cell carcinoma					1	1				2
Basal cell adenocarcinoma						1		1		2
Oncocytic carcinoma									1	1
Adenocarcinoma					1			1		2
Myoepithelial carcinoma	1					1				2
Carcinoma ex pleomorphic adenoma	1			1	1	1	1	2		7
Squamous cell carcinoma		1	1	2	5	8	3	2	1	23
Small cell carcinoma							1			1
Large cell carcinoma				1	1					2
Lymphoepithelial carcinoma			2							2
Total (%)	2 (2)	7 (7)	6 (6)	16 (17)	18 (19)	28 (29)	10 (10)	8 (8)	2 (2)	97 (100)

**Table 2 Histopathological Type of Salivary Gland Carcinoma based on Gender**

Histopathology	Gender	
	Male	Female
Acinic cell carcinoma	2	7
Mucoepidermoid carcinoma	17	10
Adenoid cystic carcinoma	6	7
Polymorphous low-grade adenocarcinoma	2	2
Clear cell carcinoma	2	
Basal cell adenocarcinoma	2	
Oncocytic carcinoma	1	
Adenocarcinoma		2
Myoepithelial carcinoma	1	1
Carcinoma ex pleomorphic adenoma	5	2
Squamous cell carcinoma	15	8
Small cell carcinoma	1	
Large cell carcinoma	1	1
Lymphoepithelial carcinoma	2	
Total (%)	57 (59)	40 (41)

widely distributed at each site of lesion. Squamous cell carcinoma had the highest case in minor salivary glands. Oncocytic carcinoma and adenocarcinoma only affected parotid gland. Large cell carcinoma was only discovered in submandibular gland (Table 3).

## Discussion

In the present review of 97 salivary gland carcinoma, group aged 50–59 years old was the highest case (29%). In 30–39, 40–49 and 60–69 years old group also showed significant number. This result is similar to the reference which reported that frequency of salivary gland carcinoma increase in fourth to seventh decade of life.<sup>3,4</sup> The increase in case occurred about 6.9% compared to the previous study by Achmad Thohir in Department of Anatomical Pathology Dr. Hasan Sadikin General Hospital in 2003–2006.

Salivary gland carcinoma more often affected male, with male:female ratio was 1.4:1. This result is similar to the study in Iran that reported predominance for men with male:female ratio was 1.4:1.5 In contrast, some references and prior studies reported that women were more often affected than men.<sup>4,6,7</sup>

According to site of lesion, carcinoma is

more frequent in parotid gland, followed by minor salivary glands, submandibular gland and sublingual gland. This result was similar to the reference that reported that 65–80% salivary gland carcinoma occurred in parotid gland, 9–23% in minor salivary glands, 10% in submandibular gland and less than 1% in sublingual gland.<sup>3,5</sup> Only 3 cases were identified in the sublingual gland. This confirmed the rarity of salivary tumors at this site, as mentioned in other studies.<sup>5,7-9</sup>

Histopathological type that is mostly found was mucoepidermoid carcinoma. In the second place, there was squamous cell carcinoma, followed by adenoid cystic carcinoma. Yu-Long Wang et al.<sup>10</sup> reported that mucoepidermoid carcinoma was the most common histopathology type (24.6%), followed by adenoid cystic carcinoma (18%) in Chinese population. Some reference also reported that mucoepidermoid carcinoma was the most common carcinoma.<sup>11</sup> According to WHO, incidence of squamous cell carcinoma was less than 1% of all carcinoma in salivary gland.<sup>5</sup> Prior study by Achmad Thohir in Dr. Hasan Sadikin General Hospital reported that adenoid cystic carcinoma was the most common histopathology.

In this study, acinic cell carcinoma occurred in almost all age group and increased in 30–

**Table 3 Histopathological Type of Salivary Gland Carcinoma based on Site of Lesion**

Histopathology	Site of Lesion (Salivary Gland)			
	Parotid	Submandibular	Sublingual	Minor
Acinic cell carcinoma	6			3
Mucoepidermoid carcinoma	16	8		3
Adenoid cystic carcinoma	5	5	1	2
Polymorphous low-grade adenocarcinoma	1			3
Clear cell carcinoma				2
Basal cell adenocarcinoma	1			1
Oncocytic carcinoma	1			
Adenocarcinoma	2			
Myoepithelial carcinoma	1			1
Carcinoma ex pleomorphic adenoma	5	1		1
Squamous cell carcinoma	5	4	1	13
Small cell carcinoma			1	
Large cell carcinoma		2		
Lymphoepithelial carcinoma	1	1		
Total (%)	44 (45)	21 (22)	3 (3)	29 (30)

39 years old. This result was similar to the reference that reported that this carcinoma was distributed widely in any group of age.<sup>4,12</sup> Mucoepidermoid carcinoma is also distributed widely in age group. Enhancement developed in third to fifth decade of life. This malignant tumor occurred in child as well. Some author reported that mucoepidermoid carcinoma is common in child and adult, distributed widely in age group, and had the peak in third to fifth decade of life.<sup>12</sup> Adenoid cystic carcinoma also spread in any age group and had the peak in 50–59 years old. This result was similar to the reference that reported that this carcinoma is distributed in all age group and increased in fourth to sixth decade of life.<sup>3,4,12</sup> Squamous cell carcinoma was found in almost all age group and increased in 40–79 years old. Previous study reported that squamous cell carcinoma was found from 7–95 years old with peak in seventh decade of life.<sup>12</sup>

Carcinoma ex pleomorphic and squamous cell carcinoma were most often affected men with male:female ratio was 2:1, as reported previously. Acinic cell carcinoma had higher frequency in women with female:male ratio was 2.8:1. This result was similar to previous study by Ilayaraja<sup>2</sup> Mucoepidermoid carcinoma were mostly found in men, while another

study reported that it was more often found in women than men. Polymorphous low-grade adenocarcinoma showed equal case between men and women. However, some authors reported that two to three times is common in women than men.<sup>4,12</sup>

According to site of lesion, acinic cell carcinoma more often occurred in parotid gland and was followed by minor salivary glands, as had been documented that 80% in parotid gland and 17% in minor salivary glands. Mucoepidermoid carcinoma was mostly found in parotid gland, similar to the reference that reported that it was common in major salivary glands, especially parotid gland.<sup>4</sup> The frequency in parotid gland is about 60%.<sup>12</sup> Adenoid cystic carcinoma was mostly found in parotid gland and submandibular gland, followed by minor salivary gland and sublingual gland, as mentioned in reference.<sup>4</sup> However, other references reported that it was more often affected by minor than major salivary gland. Carcinoma ex pleomorphic was also more often found in parotid gland, similar to the reference about 81.7%.<sup>12</sup> Polymorphous low-grade adenocarcinoma was more often affected minor salivary gland. This result was similar to the reference that reported 60% occurred in minor salivary gland, especially

palatum. Squamous cell carcinoma is mostly found in minor salivary gland as well, but in contrast with the previous study that reported was more often found in parotid gland and submandibular gland.<sup>4,12</sup>

Limitations of the study were limited time for data collection and patients' identity is not completely written in histopathological form.

The conclusion of this study is the frequency of salivary gland carcinoma increased in age group 50–59 years old. Male and parotid gland were the most affected and mucoepidermoid carcinoma was the most frequent lesion, followed by squamous cell carcinoma and adenoid cystic carcinoma.

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