



Oral Pathology/Review article

Ten years retrospective survey of orofacial malignant neoplasms: A single institution's experience[☆]

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ABSTRACT

Objectives: This study was carried out to document gender, age, subsite distribution and histologic types of orofacial malignant lesions in a Nigerian population and compare this findings with other studies in the literature.

Case design: The case definition was a retrospective survey of all cases of histologically diagnosed malignant lesions of the orofacial region over a 10-year period.

Results: 121 malignant lesions (14% all orofacial biopsies diagnosed) were histologically diagnosed. There were 66 males (54.5%) and 55 females (45.5%) and a gender ratio of 1.3:1. The peak age incidences occurred in the 6th–8th decades of life.

76% (93) of the malignant lesions were epithelial malignant neoplasms while it constituted 10.7% of all biopsies seen within this period.

Sarcomas constituted 8% of all malignant lesions and 1.1% of all biopsies while lymphomas constituted 14% of all malignant lesions and 2.1% of all biopsies.

Conclusion: In this study, epithelial malignant tumours constituted the majority of diagnosed malignant tumours followed by lymphomas and sarcomas. Our study seem to mirror reports from earlier studies.

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1. Introduction

Malignant orofacial neoplasms are the sixth most common malignancy in the world and with pharyngeal malignancies, the third most common malignancies in the developing world [1]. Geographic variations range from a few percents in the west to about 40% in southeast Asia [2].

Globally, oral cancers accounts for 1–4% of all cancers in the Western world and about 40% in Asian subcontinents with the vast

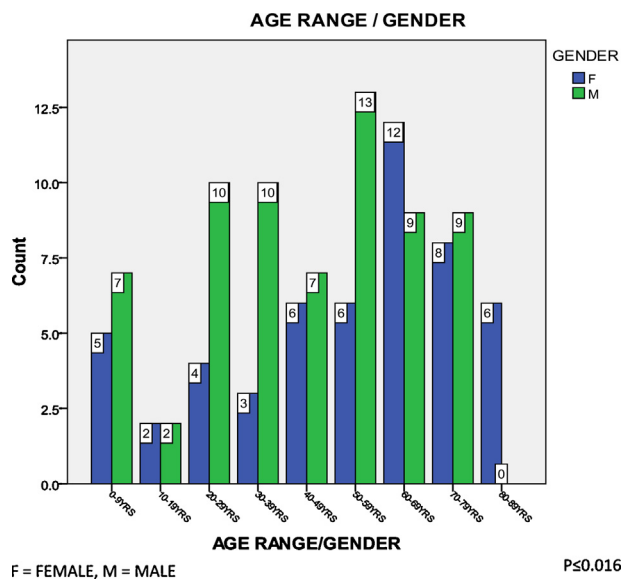


Fig. 1. Age range and gender proportion.

majority of oral cancers occurring in the developing world [2,3]. This variations could be as a result of differences in healthcare and data collection systems, and various socio-cultural differences [2]. Oral carcinomas are the most common orofacial malignant lesion, accounting for over 60% of all orofacial malignant neoplasms [4–6]. Squamous cell carcinoma (SCCA) is the most common carcinoma in the orofacial region accounting for about 90% of all malignancies of the orofacial region [7].

Sarcomas of the orofacial region are less common than carcinomas accounting for less than 1% of all adult orofacial malignancies [8,9]. It can occur in all age group but is more prevalent in first and second decades of life [8,10].

The purpose of this study is to document the gender, age, subsite distribution and histologic types of orofacial malignant lesions in a Nigerian population and compare this findings with other studies in the literature with a view to appreciating any paradigm shift.

2. Materials and methods

The case definition was a retrospective survey of all cases histologically diagnosed malignant lesions of the orofacial region over a 10-year period (January 2000–December 2009). Records were obtained from the Department of Oral Pathology and Medicine, Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, Nigeria. This is a 750 bed tertiary and one of two referral centres in Lagos State, South West (SW) Nigeria.

The age and gender preponderance were summarised. The lesions were divided into groups of epithelial (carcinomas), sarcomas and lymphomas. The epithelial group was further divided into mucosal epithelium and salivary gland tumours. Age ranges of 1st–9th decades were also deduced and based on histological subtypes, percentages were calculated along gender and age ranges (as summarised in Fig. 1 and Table 1).

Data were analysed using SPSS for windows version 17.0. Simple frequency charts, descriptive statistics and a test of significance were calculated. A level of $P < 0.05$ was considered to be statistically significant.

3. Results

During this 10-year period, 121 malignant lesions were histologically diagnosed in the orofacial region. This represented 14.1% of

the 869 biopsies seen in the oral pathology department within this period. The percentage gender preponderance were 54.5% males (66/121) and 45.5% females (55/121) and the male to female ratio was 1.3:1. A total of 119 of the 121 patients had age data recorded, with 2 age data not recorded. The minimum and maximum ages were 1.5 and 85 years respectively with a mean age of 47.72 ± 22.36 years. The peak age incidences occurred in the 6th–8th decades of life (as shown in Fig. 1) and 35.1% of the patients with age data were less than 40 years of age. A total of 90 site data were recorded. The maxilla had the most frequent site presentation of 32.2% (39/121). The palatal presentation was next with 14.9% (18/121) then the mandible with 12.4% (15/121). The lower lip was 3.3% (4/121), the tongue and upper lip were 2.5% (3/121) each while the floor of the mouth, cheek, neck and parotid gland had 1.6% (2/121) respectively. The submandibular gland had 0.8% (1/121). Unspecified sites was 27.3% (33/121).

Epithelial tumours accounted for 76.9% (93/121) of all malignancies while sarcomas and lymphomas accounting for 8.3% (10/121) and 14.9% (18/121) respectively. Unspecified tumours accounted for 1.6% (2/121).

3.1. Epithelial tumours

Epithelial malignant neoplasms categorised as mucosal epithelium and salivary gland tumours; constituted 76.9% of all malignant lesions and 10.7% (93/869) of all biopsies over this 10-year period. The patients' mean age was 54.36 ± 18.21 years. The minimum and maximum ages were 6 and 85 years respectively with the age mode being 65 years. Peak age incidence were in the 6th–8th decades of life. 25.8% (24/93) of the patients were 39 years and below. There were 45.2% (42/93) females and 54.8% (51/93) males at almost a 1:1.2 gender ratio. SCCA was the most common epithelial malignant lesion 58.1% (54/93) followed by adenoid cystic carcinoma 18.3% (17), mucoepidermoid carcinoma 9.7% (9) and adenocarcinoma NOS 4.3% (4) (as shown in Table 1). Commonest site of occurrence were as follows: maxilla 33.3% (21/93), palate 19.4% (18), mandible 8.6% (8), tongue and upper lip 3.2% (3) respectively and unspecified 20.4% (19).

3.1.1. Mucosal epithelium tumours

The mucosal epithelium tumours constituted 65.6% (61/93) of epithelial tumours. The gender predilection was 1.1:1, in favour of male to female. Peak age incidence was 7th and 8th decades of life. Squamous cell carcinoma was the commonest mucosal epithelial tumour at 88.5% (54/61) followed by anaplastic carcinoma 4.9% (3/61) (Table 2).

3.1.2. Salivary gland tumours

Salivary gland tumours constituted 34.4% (32/93) of epithelial tumours. Gender predilection was 1.1:1; in favour of male to female. Peak age incidence was the 6th decades of life. Adenoid cystic carcinoma was the commonest SGT at 53.1% (17/32) followed by mucoepidermoid carcinoma 28.1% (9/32).

3.2. Sarcomas

Sarcomas constituted 8.3% of all malignant lesions and 1.1% (10/869) of all biopsies seen within the stated period. The mean age of patients with sarcomas was 32.3 ± 23.19 years and a peak age incidence of the third decade. The minimum and maximum ages were 3 and 70 years respectively. 60% (6/10) of the patients were 29 years and below. There were 6 females and 4 male at a ratio of 1.5:1. The mandible was the most affected site 40% while the maxilla was next most affected with 30% and unspecified sites 30%. Osteogenic sarcoma was the most diagnosed lesion at 40% followed

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