Summary

Parotid tumors - A fifteen year retrospective study of the cases treated in the otorhinolaryngology department of "G. Papanikolaou" General Hospital

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Parotid tumors represent the vast majority of salivary gland tumors. Their increased frequency combined with their close anatomic relation to the facial nerve and the parapharyngeal space makes correct and early diagnosis and treatment, essential.

We performed a retrospective study of the parotid tumors that we treated in the ENT department of "G.Papanikolaou" General Hospital over the last fifteen years. In total we treated 177 patients from which 104 were men (with mean age 48 years) and 73 women (mean age 44 years). 171 of the cases were primary tumors and 6 were recurrences after previous surgical treatment.

In the diagnostic approach we used radiological examination in the form of CT or MRI scans and the final diagnosis was always confirmed by pathology report, as the treatment was primarily surgical resection.

The majority of these tumors (154 cases) were benign with adenolymphoma being the commonest among men and pleiomorphic adenoma being the commonest among women. In 23 of the cases the tumors were malignant with lymphoma being the commonest. Parotid tumors are usually benign and surgical removal remains the mainstay of treatment. Controversy exists over the preservation of the facial nerve, the performance of neck dissection and the use of radiotherapy.

Parotid tumors should receive a meticulous pre-op clinical and radiographic examination, and a careful surgical treatment. A long-term postoperative follow-up is nevertheless recommended.

Key words: *salivary gland neoplasms, parotid neoplasms, facial nerve.*

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