

SALIVARY DUCT ADENOCARCINOMA

Salivary duct adenocarcinoma is a newly described entity likened to ductal carcinoma of the breast. It is rare, and arises chiefly in the parotid and in older males. A mass in the parotid characteristically enlarges rapidly and may cause facial paralysis. It is a high grade adenocarcinoma arising from the large excretory ducts of the parotid rather than the smaller terminal ducts which are thought to give rise to most other salivary gland tumors. Metastases are common and even if adequate surgical therapy is given, survival rate is in the 40 percent range.

Microscopically, solid, cribriform, papillary or comedo growth patterns are seen, sometimes all in one tumor. Desmoplasia is common.

Salivary duct carcinoma, parotid. There is eosinophilic cytoplasm, hyperchromatic and pleomorphic nuclei, and in this example, a strong ductal appearance.

