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The Present Status of Tumors of the Oral Cavity in Turkey

Yılmaz MANİSALI (*)

During last years, the increase of tumors in the oral cavity has caused the investigators to focus their attention to this particular subject. (Lucas 1964) Today some of the efforts have concentrated on tumors in the oral cavity whereas until recently, caries and gingival diseases have been discussed extensively in dental literature.. This lead the subject being a unique branch of dentistry separated from the General Pathology. Consequently, the increase of Oral Pathological laboratories and clinics; and the papers presented before the Dental meetings as well as the born of the Academy of Oral Pathologists of the world have proved this subject as a very important one in its field.

It would be posible to have positive results in the majority of cases if the early diagnosis and treatment are achieved. This means that the early diagnosis and treatment are very important factors in this subject. Happily, in the Western countries this has been a routine procedure; on the other hand enough care has not being given by some other countries.

The most important factor to diagnose these lesions is to make a proper examination. This proves the important role of the dentists

(*) Ass. Prof. Dr. Yılmaz Manisalı, University of Istanbul Faculty of Dentistry.

to play in this matter. Some addional diagnostic tools such as radiography, ponction, biopsy and exfoliative cytology used extensively during the last years may also help the clinical examination to become more complete.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

This investigation consists of diagnostic reports sent to the Pathological Institute of the University of Istanbul, Faculty of Medicine for the histologic examination.

During the period of 1934 - 1966, 107.157 specimens have been sent to the Pathological laboratory and 3.948 specimens of them have been diagnosed as tumors of the oral cavity.

The recent publications in this field were generally prepared to classify the tumors in the human body as being malignant and benign; they were also showed geographical distribution, classifications to their origins and treatment of the tumors. (Eser, S., Eser, G. 1965 - 1966).

In this study only the tumors of the oral eavity have been discussed. The materials used for this purpose are the diagnostic reports obtained from the archives of the Pathological Institute. The reports scrutinized carefully one by one and the diagnosis directly related with the tumors in the oral cavity are separated. Later the evaluation of these tumors are made from the different points of view as it will be explained in the chapter of findings.

FINDINGS

107.157 specimens are sent to the Pathological Institute during 1934 - 1966 period. Among them, 74.842 specimens are diagnosed as tumors, and 3.948 of them are related to the oral cavity which means that the oral tumors are % 5,1 of the whole tumors in the body (Table 1)

Table 1

Oral tumors	3.948	(% 5,1)
Other tumors	70.948	(% 94,9)
Total	74.842	(%100)

The distribution of malignancy is like this: 2.376 benign and 1.572

malignant. The percentage of malignant tunmors is % 40 and of the benign tumors is % 60. (Table 2)

Table 2

Benig tumors	2.376	(% 60)
Malignant tumors	1.572	(% 40)
Total	3.948	(%100)

The distribution of the tumors calssified according to the sex revealed that 1.480 found in female and 2.468 in male. The percentages are % 43 in female and % 57 in male. (Table 3)

Table 3

Female	1.480	(% 43)
Male	2.468	(% 57)
Total	3.948	(%100)

The distribution of malignancy in both sexes is found as follows: % 74 benign and % 26 malignant tumors in female; % 52 benign and % 48 malignant tumors in male. (Table 4)

Table 4

	Female		Male	
Benign tumors	1.094	(% 74)	1.282	(% 52)
Malignant tumors	386	(% 26)	1.186	(% 48)
Total	1.480	(%100)	2.468	(%100)

Lastly, the tumors are examined according to the localizations and the findings are shown in Table 5.

Table 5

Localization			**Female**	**Male**
Lip	1.392	(% 35)	255	1.137
Buccal	261	(% 7)	107	154
Bone	106	(% 2)	64	154
Gingiva	819	(% 21)	501	318
Palate	163	(% 4)	67	96
Tongue	616	(% 16)	255	385
Salivary glands	592	(% 15)	255	337
Total	3.948	(%100)	1.450	2.468

DISCUSSION

The proportion of the oral tumors to the total numbers of tumors in the body is found % 5,1. This proportion for the malignant tumors only, is % 2. The comparison of this proportion the some other countries showed the following percentages: Ceylon % 41, Thailand % 21, South Vietnam % 15,9, Malasia % 15, Indonesia % 11,9, Chine % 5,3, Taiwan % 4,3, India % 2,81, Israel % 1,2, and Japan % 0,9 (Pindborg 1965)

This reveals that the percentage of Japan and Israel only, is lower than in Turkey.

Our findings could be compared with the ones in Costa Rica, because Costa Rica was one of the countries which investigated the tumors in the oral cavity per se. (Fischel 1965)

Table 6

	Turkey	Costa Rica
The proportion of the oral tumors to the total number of the tumors in the body	% 5,1	% 2,87
Malignant tumors	% 40	% 44,46
Benign tumors	% 60	% 55,54

As it is seen in the Table 6, the percentage of the oral tumors in our country is higher than those of Costa Rica. However, the distribution of malignancy has a close similarity to each other.

The highlights of the comparison according to their localisations of the oral tumors are as follows :

1. The lips take the first place with the persentage of % 35.
2. The gingiva follows the lips with % 21.
3. Tongue % 16.
4. Salivary glands % 15.
5. Buccal mucosa % 7.
6. Palate % 4.
7. Bone % 2.

These percentages are almost the samewith the ones in Costa Rica where the localisations of oral tumors are mostly seen in lips, tongue and salivary glands subsequently.

The Table 7 shows the localisations of the malignant oral tumors in India and South Wietnam.

Table 7

Localisation	Number of cases in India	Number of cases in South Wietnam
Number of the whole malignant tumors	20.359	757
Buccal	428	17
Tongue	209	26
Lip	48	23
Palate	89	8
Floor of the mouth	2	10
Gingiva (Alveolar ridge)	59	16

CONCLUSION

In this study, the oral tumors are investigated according to the malignancy, their localisations, and the distribution in both sexes.

This is only a preliminary study to commence the investigations from a diferent angle concerning the oral tumors. In future, it can also be made more extensive investigations including the types and etiology of the oral tumors, distribution according to age and geographical places, diagnosis and treatment plannings in Turkey.

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