



SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

SCHNEIDERIAN CARCINOMA: A CAUSE OF CENTROFACIAL EDEMA

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BACKGROUND: Non-keratinizing schneiderian carcinoma is an extremely rare and aggressive, high-grade epithelial neoplasia, originated from the malignant transformation of sinonasal inverted and oncocytic papilloma. The majority of these tumors are diagnosed at advanced stages because there is no pathognomonic clinical finding. They have poor prognosis.

OBSERVATION: 38 year old man with Down syndrome, who developed erythema and edema of the palpebral, interciliary area and the bridge of the nose after an insect bite 7 months ago. Lesions were painful and interfered with palpebral opening, and they were associated with a purulent secretion but without fever. CT scan revealed a homogeneous hypodense mass with discrete contrast enhancement affecting the mid facial region and infiltrating periorbital and malar muscles. Lytic bone lesions were associated. Routine histopathology showed dermal tumors composed of atypical, non-keratinizing, columnar epithelial cells. Numerous atypical mitoses were identified.

KEY MESSAGE: Schneiderian carcinoma is an aggressive and rare epithelial tumor that arises from the sinonasal mucosa, and should be considered as part of the differential diagnosis of centrofacial edema.

