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# Synchronous unilateral parotid neoplasms. A case report

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## Abstract

The parotid gland is the most usual location of benign neoplasms affecting major salivary glands and quite often the recurrence of these tumours is noticed, specially in the case of pleomorphic adenoma. The occurrence of multiple tumours in the parotid glands is rare and the majority of these are multifocal Warthin`s tumors (papillary cystadenoma lymphomatosum). The simultaneous development of tumours with different histological types is unusual and when it occurs, the most common combination is a pleomorphic adenoma and a Warthin`s tumor. There are many articles about Multiple Parotid Tumors (MPT) but only a few of them are focused on unilateral synchronous benings tumors, being pleomorphic adenoma and Warthin´s these tumors.

The report describes a 55 year old female with a pleomorphic adenoma occurring synchronously with a Warthin`s tumor within the superficial lobe of her left parotid gland.

***Key words:*** *Double primary tumours, synchronous tumours, parotid gland.*

## Introduction

The parotid gland is the most usual location of benign neoplasms affecting major salivary glands and quite often the recurrence of these tumours is noticed, specially in the case of pleomorphic adenoma. However, the ocurrence of multifocal primary tumours (MPT) in the parotid gland is an unusual phenomenon (2, 3), and if seen, it is rare these tumours to be histologically different as also benign. When it occurs, the most common combination is a pleomorphic adenoma with a Warthin tumor (4, 5). The following report describes a case of an unilateral pleomorphic adenoma and a Warthin`s tumor.

## Case Report

A 55-years-old woman came to our hospital with a unilateral lump below the left angle of the mandible that was slowly increasing in size and being asymptomatic at that moment. Clinical examination disclosed a 2-3 cm mass that seemed to be in the lower pole of the left parotid gland. It was a well-defined mass, with a firm and non-tender consistency that was not attached to the skin. She had not any symptom suggesting facial nerve affectation. Cytologic analysis of the ultrasound-guided fine-needle aspiration showed no malignant cells, obtaining a solid and firm material with an underlying salivary gland

neoplasm, probably a pleomorphic adenoma.

The computed tomography scan showed two separate masses in the lower pole of the left parotid gland (Fig. 1). The biggest one measured 2x1,5 cm craniocaudally. The other mass measured 1x1 cm craniocaudally, and it was located under the first one. The radiologist provisional diagnosis of Warthin`s tumor was made. A left superficial parotidectomy with preservation of the facial nerve was made one month after diagnosis. At the time of surgery, two nodules were palpable within the gland. She had an uneventful recovery and kept intact the function of the seventh cranial nerve. A bruise on the operated area delayed the discharge of the patient.

Histological examination of the left parotid specimen showed the gland to contain two separate tumours; the largest one was a pleomorphic adenoma (Fig. 2). The other mass was a lymph node with a Warthin`s tumor inside (Fig. 3).

Forty months after surgery the patient is still free from any clinical sign of tumour recurrence.

**Fig. 1**. Computed Tomography.

## Discussion

There are many articles about Multiple Parotid Tumors (MPT) but only a few of them are focused on unilateral synchronous benings tumors, being pleomorphic adenoma and Warthin´s these tumors. In 1996 Franzen and Koegel reported a case with this combination (6). It was the eleventh published case dealing with this issue. Four years later, Godden and cols. (7) described a case of a parotid tumor that ,once the microscopic examination was made, turned out to be two neoplasms, a pleomorphic adenoma and a Warthin tumor.

Zeebregts and cols.(2) in 2003 reported a series of 14 cases of synchronous multiple unilateral tumours, where this combination is found in three cases. Yu (8) reported a series of 2055 cases of parotid gland tumours, where 69 cases (3,4%) were MPT. The combination of Warthin`s tumour and pleomorphic adenoma in Yu´s series was seen in two cases (0,097%). In 2007, Tanaka and cols. (3) reported a case with three different histological types of tumours located in in the same parotid gland, being these tumours a pleomorphic adenoma, a Warthin´s tumor and a salivary duct carcinoma. This one is last related article that has been published so far. Because of the existence of MPT, careful preoperative diagnosis is even more necessary. Surgery (total o subtotal parotidectomy) is the treatment of choice for these tumours.

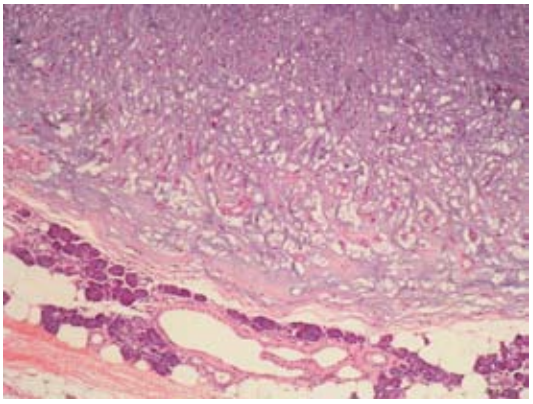

**Fig. 2.** Pleomorphic adenoma.

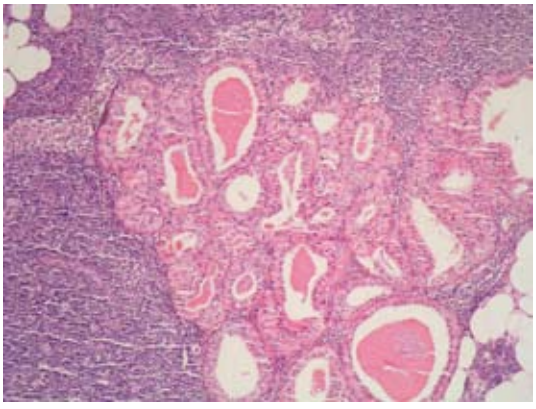

**Fig. 3.** Warthin`s tumor.

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