Case Report
Seromucinous hamartoma of the bilateral nasal cavities: a case report

Bo-Nien Chen1,3, Kuo-Ming Chang2

Departments of 1Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, 2Pathology, Hsinchu MacKay Memorial Hospital, Hsinchu, Taiwan; 3Mackay Junior College of Medicine, Nursing, Management, New Taipei, Taiwan

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Abstract: Objectives: Seromucinous hamartoma, first described by Baillie and Batsakis in 1974, is a rare benign glandular proliferation of the sinonasal tract and nasopharynx. Herein, we present a case of seromucinous hamartoma arising in the bilateral nasal cavities. Case report: We present a 43-year-old woman with seromucinous hamartoma of the bilateral nasal cavities who presented with nasal obstruction and anosmia. The patient underwent endoscopic sinus surgery and was disease-free at the most recent follow-up, 3 years later. Results: In this paper, we review the literature and compare it to our case. Based on our research, this is the first case report of seromucinous hamartoma of the bilateral nasal cavities. Conclusions: This case report indicates that seromucinous hamartoma should be considered in the differential diagnosis of bilateral nasal tumors, especially those that arise from the posterior nasal cavities medial to the middle turbinates.

Keywords: Seromucinous hamartoma, respiratory epithelial adenomatoid hamartoma, low grade sinonasal adenocarcinoma

Introduction
Seromucinous hamartoma (SH), first described by Baillie and Batsakis in 1974, is a rare benign glandular proliferation of the sinonasal tract and nasopharynx [1]. To date, 24 cases of SH have been reported in the English language literature (Table 1) [1-4]. Herein, we present a case of SH arising in the bilateral nasal cavities. Based on our research, this is the first case report of SH of the bilateral nasal cavities.

Case report
A 43-year-old woman visited our hospital presenting with a long-standing bilateral progressive nasal obstruction and 5-month anosmia. Sinoscopy revealed papillomatous masses in the bilateral nasal cavities. Computed tomography of the sinonasal cavity revealed polypoid lesions in the bilateral nasal cavities medial to the middle turbinates. The bilateral olfactory clefts were obliterated by the lesions (Figure 1). The lesions were excised using endoscopic sinus surgery assisted by microdebrider. Intraoperatively, a pedunculated mass based in the sphenoid recess was discovered bilaterally. The histopathological sections of the lesions of the bilateral nasal cavities showed a proliferation of individual medium- to large-sized glands lined by pseudostratified respiratory epithelia (of both mucinous and ciliated types), arising in direct continuity with the surface epithelium and invaginating downward into the stroma. Many of these glands were enveloped by prominent thickened hyalinized basement membranes (Figure 2A). Some individuals and clusters of various amounts of small serous glands were observed among or near the medium-sized mucous glands in a mildly haphazard scattered or, to a rarer extent, mildly crowded pattern without typical lobulated architecture (Figure 2B). Thus, SH of the bilateral nasal cavities was diagnosed.

The patient recovered well from the surgery and was disease-free at the most recent follow-up, 3 years later.

Discussion
Sinonasal hamartomas are considered uncommon and have been clearly defined only in recent years. Sinonasal hamartomas have been designated as epithelial, mesenchymal, and
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The majority of sinonasal hamartomas is of the epithelial type and includes respiratory epithelial adenomatoid hamartoma (REAH) and SH [4]. However, mixed type of sinonasal hamartomas, such as chondro-osseous respiratory epithelial adenomatoid hamaroama (COREAH), is an extremely rare, developmental malformation [5]. REAH and SH lesions may belong to the same spectrum rather than being two separate entities. Foci of SH are frequently observed in REAH, and vice versa [2]. Their pathogenesis remains uncertain, with inflammatory and neoplastic origins proposed [6].

The male-to-female ratio of SH occurrence is approximately 1:1. Patients are most often middle-aged to elderly [2].

Table 1. Summary of 24 cases of SH have been published in the English literature

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baillie et al. (1974)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Nasopharynx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zarbo et al. (1983)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Nasopharynx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graeme-Cook et al. (1992)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>57, 63, 78</td>
<td>F = 3</td>
<td>Posterior nasal cavity = 2, nasopharynx = 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chuang et al. (2000)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Paranasal sinus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weinreb et al. (2009)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14-86</td>
<td>M = 4, F = 3</td>
<td>Posterior septum = 6, lateral nasal wall = 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambrosini-Spaltro et al. (2010)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>49-66</td>
<td>M = 2, F = 3</td>
<td>Nasal cavity = 4, septum = 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figures et al. (2010)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Anterosuperior septum with skull base involvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khan et al. (2011)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>59, 61</td>
<td>F = 2</td>
<td>Nasal cavity = 1, nasopharynx = 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleming et al. (2012)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Posterior nasal cavity extending to nasopharynx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huang et al. (2015)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>34, 35</td>
<td>F = 2</td>
<td>Nasal cavity = 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The most common presenting symptoms are nasal obstruction and epistaxis, although most patients are asymptomatic and the lesions are discovered incidentally [2, 4]. However, the only presenting symptom of the patient of this report was nasal obstruction. The patient suffered from anosmia subsequently and we speculated that the anosmia was caused by the obliteration of bilateral olfactory recesses. Finally, the olfaction of the patient was recovery after surgical excision of SH.

With rare exceptions, most cases of SH have arisen in either the posterior nasal cavity medial to the middle turbinate or the nasopharynx [2, 3]. This feature was also observed in our case. Moreover, Lima et al. suggested hamartoma must be suspected on CT scan enlargement of the olfactory clefts [7].

Histopathologically, the most crucial differential diagnosis for SH is low-grade sinonasal adenocarcinoma, of the nonintestinal type (LG-SNAC), because the latter may require more extensive surgery and possibly radiotherapy [2, 4]. Immunohistochemistry does not contribute toward differentiating SH and LGSNAC [2]. However, in contrast to SH, LGSNAC typically exhibits complex growth patterns including micropapillary architecture, and glands that are back-to-back or fused [2, 8].

SH is typically cured by simple surgical excision. After treatment with surgical excision, there has been only one report of a recurrence [2-4]. Our case was disease-free at the most recent follow-up, 3 years later.

Conclusion

Our case demonstrates two pertinent points. First, this is the first case report of SH of the
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bilateral nasal cavities. Second, SH is extremely rare but should be considered in the differential diagnosis of bilateral nasal tumors, especially those that arise from the posterior nasal cavities medial to the middle turbinates.

Disclosure of conflict of interest

None.

Address correspondence to: Dr. Bo-Nien Chen, Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Hsinchu MacKay Memorial Hospital, No. 690, Sec. 2, Guangfu Road, East Dist, Hsinchu 30071, Taiwan. Tel: +886 36119595; Fax: +886 36110900; E-mail: chenbonien@yahoo.com.tw

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