

## Primary leiomyosarcoma of the mandible. A case report

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### ABSTRACT

The aim of this article is to describe a case of leiomyosarcoma of the mandible with immunohistochemical analysis that was useful in making the final diagnosis.

A 40-year-old woman was referred to the Stomatology Clinic of São Paulo Tatuapé Hospital, for evaluation of a lesion on the left side of the mandible. This lesion presented a fast growth in the last 6 months. Intraoral examination showed a firm, fixed, red colored mass measuring, approximately 60-mm in diameter. No lymph nodes involvement was found. The radiographic examination showed a lytic lesion showed ill-demarcated radiolucent with facial and lingual cortical bone destruction. Microscopic examination of the mandibular lesion showed a neoplasm composed by interlacing fascicles of spindle-shaped cells. Most of the cells presented a blunt-ended elongated shape. A marked cellular pleomorphism was observed, represented by cells with irregular shape and abundant eosinophilic cytoplasm. Nuclei were large, hyperchromatic, either vacuolated or cigar-shape. The cytoplasm of the cells stained red with Masson's trichrome stain. Neoplastic cells expressed vimentin, smooth-muscle actin, HHF-35 and desmin. These findings were consistent with the diagnosis of leiomyosarcoma.

**Key words:** Immunohistochemical, leiomyosarcoma, mandible.

### INTRODUCTION

Leiomyosarcoma makes up 6 to 7% of all soft tissue sarcomas. This neoplasm of smooth muscle is more common in older adult population and most often arises in the uterus, gastrointestinal tract, and the retroperitoneal region(1). Women are more affected than men because of the uterine association. The prognosis is poor, with a high percentage of recurrence or metastasis. The most common sites of metastasis include the lungs, bone, brain and the lymph node. This neoplasm, is a extremely rare mesenchymal lesion in the oral cavity, with unusual bone location because of paucity of smooth muscle in that site(2). However, the definitive histologic diagnosis of leiomyosarcoma is difficult because

of the similarity with other spindle-cell sarcomas(1). The immunohistochemical analysis for cytoskeletal proteins such as actin, vimentin, desmin, HHF-35 and ultrastructural examination has been widely used for the diagnosis of leiomyosarcoma(3).

The aim of this article is to describe a case of leiomyosarcoma of the mandible with immunohistochemical analysis that was useful in making the final diagnosis.

### CASE REPORT

A 40-year-old woman was first seen with a lesion on the left mandible. This lesion had demonstrated rapid growth during the last 6 months. Intra oral examination showed a

firm, fixed, red colored mass measuring 60-mm in diameter. No lymph nodes involvement was found.

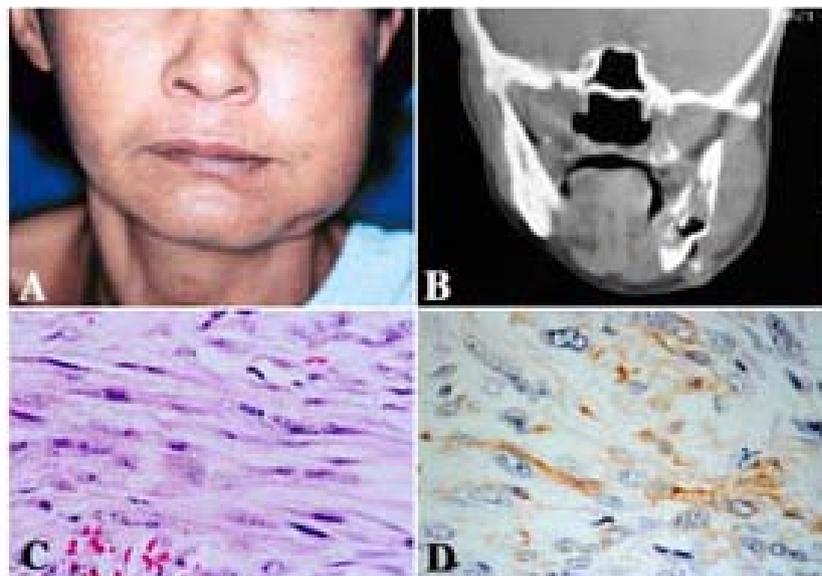
A biopsy was performed under local anesthesia. The specimen was fixed in formalin, paraffin embedded and stained by hematoxylin-eosin. A diagnosis of an inflammatory chronic process with desmoplasia of the connective tissue was made. Due to the clinical appearance of the lesion, it was suggested that the biopsy should be repeated, in order to obtain a more representative sample. Unfortunately, the patient returned one month later, with a pronounced enlargement of the left side of the mandible with depressed area, (Fig. 1A). No fistula or discharge were observed and all the teeth in the region were vital. At this point the patient reported pain. In addition, the computed tomographic imaging showed a lytic, ill-demarcated radiolucency lesion with facial and lingual cortical bone perforation. The medular bone was destroyed, there was calcification into tumor mass and expansion of soft tissue. The Poorly defined margins suggest a malignant tumor. (Fig. 1 B).

The rapid onset of a painful left mandibular swelling, lacking signs of infection or inflammation, along with radiographic features of facial and lingual bone destruction suggested malignancy. For a patient at this age and sex, primary and metastatic malignancies in mandibular bone should be considered. The differential diagnosis could include soft tissue sarcomas, osteosarcoma and chondrosarcoma.

The patient was admitted at São Paulo Tatuapé Hospital for an emergency surgery. Another incisional biopsy was performed.

Microscopic examination of the mandibular lesion showed a neoplasm composed of interlacing fascicles of spindle-shaped cells. Most of the cells were blunt-ended and elongated shaped. A marked cellular pleomorphism was observed, represented by cells with irregular shape and abundant eosinophilic cytoplasm. Nuclei were large, hyperchromatic, either vacuolated or cigar-shaped (Fig. 1C). Mitotic figures could occasionally be identified (less than of 2 per 10 high power fields). The tumor exhibited hemangiopericytoma-like areas. Few giant cells were present. Necrotic areas were noted. Immunohistochemistry was carried out through the streptavidin biotin method (LSAB, Dako Corporation Carpinteria CA USA). The antibodies used were anti-vimentin (1:200 Tris-HCl), anti-smooth-muscle actin (1:50 Tris-HCl), anti-HHF35 (1:50 Tris-HCl), anti-desmin (1:100 Tris-HCl), anti-S100 protein (1:400 Tris-HCl), anti-CD-34 (1:50 Tris-HCl), h-caldesmon (1:100 Tris-HCl). All antibodies were from Dako (Dako NS, Glostrup, Denmark), except the anti-CD34, purchased from Novocastra (Novocastra, Newcastle, UK). Neoplastic cells expressed vimentin, HHF-35, desmin, h-caldesmon and smooth-muscle actin (Fig. 1D). These findings were consistent with the diagnosis of leiomyosarcoma.

The hemimandibulectomy was the chosen treatment for the present case. The patient has been followed for 11 months and no local recurrence has been observed. The cervical and submandibular regions remain free of palpable lymph nodes. Systemic examinations revealed no other site affected by this malignant neoplasm. The neoplasm in question was a primary leiomyosarcoma of the mandible.



**Fig. 1.** (A) Facial view of patient shows depressed area visible below the left commissure and swelling on the left side of mandible. (B) Coronal CT image demonstrates an ill-demarcated radiolucency with facial, lingual cortical bone destruction. Poorly defined margins suggest a malignant tumor. (C) Most cells presented as blunt-ended, elongated shaped, with a marked pleomorphism, represented by cells with irregular shaped and abundant eosinophilic cytoplasm. Nuclei were large hyperchromatic, either vacuolated or cigar-shaped. (hematoxylin-eosin stain, original magnification x 400). (D) Photomicrograph showing positive immunoreaction for smooth-muscle actin in the tumor cells (streptavidin-biotin stain, original magnification x 630).

## DISCUSSION

The leiomyosarcoma has been divided into three main groups based on geographic occurrence: 1) retroperitoneal and intra-abdominal; 2) cutaneous and subcutaneous; and 3) vascular. Each group has certain clinical and biological differences, although, they are histologically similar. The site of the leiomyosarcoma is more important for prognosis than its histological features. Those arising in a superficial cutaneous localization have the best prognosis (1).

Intraoral leiomyosarcoma occurs predominantly in males with a ratio of 2:1 and may present at any age, (2) ranging from 1 to 88 years (3-5). The mean age of the 10 previously described patients with leiomyosarcoma arising from jaw bone was 43.8 years (6). The patient of the present case is a woman of 40 years with a primary lesion at the mandible. Farman (7) found only 5 oral cases among 7,748 benign smooth-muscle tumors of the whole body. In a review of the literature, in 1977, by Farman and Key (8), 11 cases of primary leiomyosarcomas in the jaws or in the oral cavity were located. A total of 30 cases of primary leiomyosarcoma in the oral cavity have been described during the last 75 years (6, 9-13). The intraoral locations of these tumors were as follows: cheek (5), mandible (8), gingiva (4), maxilla (4), floor of the mouth (3), tongue (3), soft palate (2), hard palate mucosa (1) (7, 13).

In the oral cavity, the jaw bones have been the most prevalent location for this tumor, accounting for 45% of all reported cases. Including the current case, only 9 cases have been reported in the mandible (7, 13). There is no distinct clinical feature that may suggest the presence of oral leiomyosarcoma. These tumors can appear as a painless, well-circumscribed mass, firmly adherent to the surrounding tissues (3). Histopathologically, this neoplasm is characterized by sheets of sweeping, alternating bundles and fascicles of densely packed spindle cells with abundant fibrillar eosinophilic cytoplasm and indistinct cytoplasmic borders. The nucleus is usually centrally located and blunt-ended, squared-off or cigar-shaped. Occasional cells have perinuclear vacuoles (1,9,14,15). In some cases, nuclear hyperchromasia, and pleomorphism are pronounced. Both typical and atypical mitosis, as few as one or as many as 20 per high-power field populate the tumor (9,11). The diagnosis of soft tissue tumors of mesenchymal origin can be very difficult and necessitates differentiation from a number of other tumors (16,17). Masson's trichrome staining and immunohistochemical evaluation for muscle antigens are helpful in diagnosis separating leiomyosarcoma from other sarcomas (18). Positive reactions for desmin, vimentin, smooth-muscle actin and h-caldesmon have been demonstrated in this neoplasm (3, 19-21).

The case presented fulfilled these criteria and confirmed the diagnosis of leiomyosarcoma.

Surgical resection, hemimandibulectomy or hemimaxillectomy, partial maxillectomy, are the preferred initial treatments for cases of leiomyosarcoma primary in the jawbones (15, 13). Regional lymph node investigation is recommended if there is clinical evidence of lymphadenopathy (21).

A hemimandibulectomy was the treatment of the choice in the present case. The patient has been following by 11 months and no local recurrence has been observed. The cervical and submandibular regions remain free of palpable lymph nodes. Systemic examinations revealed no other site affected by this malignant neoplasm.

To summarize our report, we should emphasize the importance of an early diagnosis on the survival of the patient. This diagnosis can only be achieved if a representative fragment of the lesion is obtained. In addition, immunohistochemistry was very important to establish a final diagnosis of leiomyosarcoma.

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