

## NASOPHARYNGEAL PLEOMORPHIC ADENOMA: A DIFFICULT SURGICAL PROPOSITION

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**P**leomorphic Adenoma or benign mixed tumor is the most common salivary tumor, accounting for up to two-thirds of all salivary gland neoplasms. These are benign tumors. If the minor salivary glands are involved, the most common site is palate. The first site of origin in nasopharynx is very rare. A 21-year-old female was referred to us with complaints of gradually progressive, left sided nasal obstruction since three years. Plain and contrast-enhanced MDCT scan of the nasopharynx and the parapharyngeal space showed a fairly large ill-defined heterogeneously enhancing soft tissue lesion with internal nodular calcifications involving pharyngeal mucosal space and parapharyngeal space on the left side at the nasopharyngeal level extending onto the oropharynx. The lesion measured about 5.8 X 5.1 X 3.9 cm in size and caused gross narrowing of the nasopharyngeal airway. There was obliteration of the fossa of rosenmuller on the left side. The infratemporal fossa was normal and the right side appeared to be free of disease. A lateral rhinotomy and lip split was performed and the maxilla was split in the midline and the tumor was exposed. On digital palpation, the tumor was noted to be extending deep into the left parapharyngeal space and was delivered by blunt dissection as it was a well-encapsulated tumor. Complete surgical removal of the tumor followed by intermaxillary wiring was done. The wire was removed after 3 months. The patient reported an improvement in symptoms and the nasopharynx was disease-free even at 6 months. On histopathological examination, the tumor was composed of epithelial and stromal elements. The epithelial elements were oriented in cords, tubules and nests, consisting of cells with uniform round nuclei and moderate cytoplasm. The stroma is a mixture of fibrous, myxomatous and focally chondromyxomatous elements. A mild diffuse mononuclear cell

infiltration was noted. No evidence of malignancy was seen. The features were suggestive of benign mixed tumor or pleomorphic adenoma of the minor salivary gland.

### Recent Publications

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4. E Amilibia, J Nogues, M Sandoval M, G Arias and M Dicenta (1997) Minor salivary gland tumor in nasopharynx. *Acta Otorrinolaringologica Española* 48(8):671-673.
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### Biography

Swati Nair is a Junior Resident, in the Department of Otorhinolaryngology at the Dr. B R Ambedkar Medical College, Bangalore, India. She has published papers in acclaimed international and Indian journals. She is particularly passionate about Head and Neck surgery and actively contributes to the research in the field.

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