Juxtaoral organ of Chievitz: A histopathological masquerade

A 46-year-old female diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) of right buccal mucosa [Figure 1] underwent wide surgical excision of the tumor, and histopathological clearance of resection margins was requested for further management. Tissue harvested from posterior resection margin [arrow, Figure 1] histologically revealed well circumscribed epithelial sprouts present within the loose connective tissue stroma rich in nerves [Figure 2]. These were parenchymal rests of nonkeratinized squamous cells delineated by a basement membrane with few cells showing paler cytoplasm and clear cell-like features [inset, Figure 2]. Based on the anatomic location and the histological features, these structures were recognized as juxtaoral organ of Chievitz (JOOC), and the margin was cleared from tumor invasion. JOOC is a normal permanent anatomical structure located within the soft tissue overlying the angle of the mandible in the buccotemporal space. JOOC is known to mimic various pathologies such as a perineural invasion by SCC, adenoid cystic, mucoepidermoid, and thyroid carcinomas.[1]

Awareness and knowledge about JOOC and similar physiological structures are indispensable among surgical pathologists to avoid misdiagnosis and unnecessary extensive surgical procedures.

Vijay Wadhwan, Arvind Venkatesh, Pooja Aggarwal, Vandana Reddy, Preeti Sharma
Department of Oral Pathology and Microbiology, Subharti Dental College and Hospital, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, India

Address for correspondence:
Dr. Arvind Venkatesh,
Department of Oral Pathology and Microbiology,
Subharti Dental College and Hospital,
Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, India.
E-mail: drarvindvenkatesh@gmail.com

REFERENCE

This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 License, which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as the author is credited and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.