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## HISTOPATHOLOGICAL STUDY OF MINOR SALIVARY GLAND TUMORS: AN OBSERVATIONAL STUDY IN THE MALWA BELT OF SOUTH WEST PART OF PUNJAB

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**Introduction:** Minor salivary gland neoplasms represent less than 25% of the intraoral salivary neoplasms and only 0.3-1.5% of all the biopsies received in oral pathology laboratories.

**Aim & Objective:** Histopathological study of minor salivary gland tumors: An observational study in the Malwa belt of south west part of Punjab.

Material & Method: A prospective clinico-pathological study of 15 cases of benign and malignant neoplastic tumors of intraoral minor salivary glands was conducted in Department of Pathology at Adesh Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, Bathinda over the period of 6 months. The lesions from representative sections were studied and classified according to World Health Organization (WHO) classification.

**Result:** Palate was the most common site constituting 46.6% followed by retromolar region contributing 26%. Histopathologically amongst the 15 cases studied during study period, 8 were benign and remaining 7 were malignant. The most

common benign tumor found was Pleomorphic adenoma (87.5%) followed by a single case of oncocytoma (12.5%). Among the 7 malignant tumours most commonly seen lesion was serous polymorphous low grade adenocarcinoma (PLGA) contributing 42.8% of all the malignant minor salivary gland lesions followed by adenoid cystic carcinoma (28.5%), mucoepidermoid carcinoma (14.2%).

Conclusion: Most of the benign tumors were observed in the age group of 20-40 years, while most of the malignant tumor cases were common in elderly (>40 years) age group. The most commonly seen benign neoplastic lesion was pleomorphic adenoma whereas polymorphous low grade adenocarcinoma (PLGA) was the most common malignant salivary gland neoplasm. Histopathology remains the gold standard for the diagnosis along with all other advanced ancillary techniques such as immunohistochemistry.

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