

Parotid Gland Lipoma: An Unusual Entity

Dionysios Dellaportas¹, Dionysios S. Mantzos¹, Theodosios Theodosopoulos¹, Anteia Paraskeva², Ioannis Vassiliou¹

¹2nd Department of Surgery, Aretaieion Hospital, Medical School, University of Athens, Athens, Greece

²Department of Anesthesiology, Aretaieion Hospital, Medical School, University of Athens, Athens, Greece

Abstract

The occurrence of lipomas in the parotid gland is extremely rare, and impossible to differentiate clinically. A case of this bizarre entity is reported herein, which was treated successfully with superficial parotidectomy. A 57-year-old man with a well-circumscribed, rubbery mass, probably arising from the right parotid gland was investigated in our hospital initially with ultrasound scan, and finally with MRI-scan. Both imaging modalities implied a benign lipomatous tumor and the patient underwent an uneventful superficial parotidectomy. Although adipose tissue is a natural component of parotid glands, lipomas arising in the gland are very unusual. The entity's incidence is about 1% (0.6-4.4%) of parotid gland mass lesions and history of previous trauma in the area is the most common patho-physiological mechanism described. Tomographic imaging modalities are very accurate in preoperative diagnosis and cosmetic appearance is the usual indication for surgical intervention. Any particular symptoms jeopardize clinically the diagnosis of parotid lipoma. As always, surgical excision should respect the facial nerve and branches.

Key words: parotid gland, lipoma, superficial parotidectomy