

Antineoplastics

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Mucoepidermoid carcinoma (first report with busulfan and dexamethasone) as a secondary cancer: case report

An adolescent boy developed a secondary mucoepidermoid carcinoma of the submandibular gland, after receiving treatment with multiple antineoplastics for acute myeloid leukaemia.

After the initial diagnosis at age 5 years, the boy was administered the DCTER regimen, consisting of etoposide (cumulative dose 1600 mg/m²), dexamethasone, cytarabine, tioguanine and daunorubicin [*dosages not stated*]. He later received cyclophosphamide (cumulative dose 120 mg/kg) and busulfan [*dosage not stated*], before undergoing a stem cell transplant. He achieved complete remission. Eight years after his initial diagnosis, he presented with a slow-growing, painless mass (1.5 × 2.0cm) in the left submandibular area. The mass was mobile with a smooth surface and a hard consistency. Fine-needle aspiration cytology revealed a mucoepidermoid carcinoma, and PET-CT scanning ruled out metastases. He was asymptomatic.

The boy underwent a left submandibular gland excision and a left supra-omohyoid neck dissection. Pathology confirmed an intermediate-grade mucoepidermoid carcinoma that was confined to the submandibular gland. After 3 years of close follow-up, he had no further evidence of disease.

Author comment: "[T]he chemotherapy seems to have been an important factor influencing the risk of the [second malignant neoplasm] in our case."

Woo H-J, et al. Mucoepidermoid carcinoma of the submandibular gland after chemotherapy in a child. *Auris Nasus Larynx* 36: 244-246, No. 2, Apr 2009 - South Korea

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» **Editorial comment:** A search of AdisBase, Medline and Embase did not reveal any previous case reports of mucoepidermoid carcinoma associated with busulfan or dexamethasone. The WHO ADR database contained one report of mucoepidermoid carcinoma (MedDRA) associated with dexamethasone, but none associated with busulfan.