

**DISEASES OF THE PAROTID GLANDS: CLINICAL FEATURES, DIAGNOSIS
AND TREATMENT**

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Annotation: The article is devoted to diseases of the parotid glands, including their clinical features, diagnostic methods and approaches to treatment. The parotid glands play an important role in the process of salivation and maintaining normal function of the oral cavity. Diseases of these glands can manifest themselves in various forms, including inflammatory, infectious, neoplastic and autoimmune disorders. The article considers the main diseases, such as sialadenitis, mumps (parotitis), benign and malignant tumors, as well as Sjogren's syndrome. Particular attention is paid to diagnostic methods, including ultrasound, magnetic resonance imaging and sialography, as well as biopsies for the final diagnosis of tumors. Treatment of parotid gland diseases includes both conservative methods (antibacterial, antiviral therapy, anti-inflammatory drugs) and surgical intervention in tumors and abscesses. The prognosis depends on the timeliness of diagnosis and the type of disease, which emphasizes the importance of early medical attention. The article aims to provide a deeper understanding of the clinical aspects of parotid gland diseases and improve approaches to their diagnosis and treatment.

Key words: Sialadenitis, abscess, mummification of the parotid glands, mycoses, benign and malignant tumors, metastases in the parotid gland, autoimmune and systemic diseases, Sjogren's syndrome, lymphoproliferative diseases.

Abstract: The article is devoted to diseases of the parotid glands, their features, diagnostic methods and approaches to individuals. The parotid glands play a major role in the process of salivation and maintaining normal oral function. Diseases of these glands can occur in various forms, including inflammatory, infectious, tumor and autoimmune disorders. The article discusses the main diseases, such as sialadenitis, mumps (parotitis), benign and malignant tumors, as well as Sjogren's syndrome. Particular attention is paid to diagnostic methods, ultrasound, magnetic resonance imaging and sialography, as well as biopsy for the final diagnosis of tumors. Treatment of parotid gland diseases includes both conservative methods (antibacterial, antiviral therapy, anti-inflammatory drugs) and surgical intervention for tumors and abscesses. The prognosis depends on the timeliness of diagnosis and the type of disease, which requires early treatment. The article "Iron" is aimed at a deeper understanding of the aspects of the characteristics of parotid diseases and approaches to their diagnosis and individual approach.

Keywords: Sialadenitis, abscess, mummification of the parotid glands, mycoses, benign and malignant tumors, metastases in the paraimmune glands, autoimmune and systemic diseases, Sjogren's syndrome, lymphoproliferative diseases.

Introduction

Parotid glands (glandules parotides) are the largest salivary glands of the human body, playing an important role in the production and secretion of saliva. These glands are located

in the neck, in the front part of the ears, and provide a significant part of the salivary secretion, which plays a key role in digestion and maintaining normal microflora of the oral cavity. Diseases of the parotid glands can be varied, including inflammatory, infectious, tumor-like and other pathological processes. They are often accompanied by pain, swelling, dysfunction and require a careful approach to diagnosis and treatment.

Anatomy and physiology of the parotid glands

The parotid gland is an exocrine gland that produces serous (watery) saliva that enters the oral cavity through an excretory duct (Stenon's duct) that opens in the area of the second upper molar. Each gland consists of lobes separated by connective tissue. The gland produces and secretes saliva, and filters fluid from the blood. The parotid glands are innervated by both the sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous systems, which regulates their function depending on the physiological needs of the body.

Classification of diseases of the parotid glands

Diseases of the parotid glands can be classified by a number of criteria: etiology, pathogenesis, type of lesion and localization. The main groups of diseases include inflammatory, infectious, tumor and other pathological conditions.

Inflammatory diseases

1. **Sialadenitis** is an inflammation of the parotid gland that can develop as a result of infection, injury, or autoimmune diseases. Sialadenitis can be acute or chronic, with varying degrees of pain and swelling.
2. **Mummification of the parotid glands** is a condition associated with long-term inflammation of the glands, as a result of which the gland tissue turns into a fibrous or rigid structure. This condition can lead to impaired salivation and decreased functionality of the glands.
3. **An abscess of the parotid gland** is a purulent inflammation of the gland, usually caused by a bacterial infection. This condition is characterized by pain, swelling, and redness in the area of the gland, and may also lead to an increase in body temperature.

Infectious diseases

1. **Mumps (parotitis)** is a viral disease caused by the mumps virus that primarily affects the parotid glands. This disease is characterized by painful swelling and inflammation of the glands, and may also be accompanied by fever, headache, and general malaise.
2. **Mycoses** are fungal infections that can affect the parotid glands, especially in people with weakened immunity. These diseases are characterized by a chronic course and require specific antifungal therapy.

Tumor diseases

1. **Benign tumors** - these include adenomas, cystic lesions, and fibromas that can develop in the parotid gland tissue. They usually appear as painless, slow-growing growths that can cause cosmetic defects.
2. **Malignant tumors** - carcinoma, mucoepidermoid tumor and other malignancies affecting the parotid glands pose a serious threat to the patient's health. These tumors can be aggressive and require surgery and/or radiation therapy.
3. **Metastases in the parotid gland** are a rare but possible occurrence when malignant tumors developing in other organs metastasize to the tissues of the parotid gland.

Autoimmune and systemic diseases

1. **Sjogren's syndrome** is a chronic autoimmune disease in which the immune system attacks the salivary glands, including the parotid glands. This results in dry mouth, decreased saliva secretion, and may also be associated with inflammation of the glands.
2. **Lymphoproliferative disorders** - parotid gland involvement may be associated with Hodgkin's disease, multiple myeloma, or other lymphoproliferative disorders.

Clinical manifestations of parotid gland diseases

Symptoms of parotid gland diseases may vary depending on the type of pathology. However, the following are common signs:

1. **Swelling and pain** in the parotid gland area, which may be associated with inflammation or tumor processes.
2. **Elevated body temperature** , especially in cases of infectious diseases such as mumps or an abscess.
3. **Disorders of salivary flow** , including dry mouth (Sjogren's syndrome) or excess saliva.
4. **Problems with swallowing and chewing** due to swelling or pain in the gland area.
5. **Cosmetic defects** that arise from tumors or chronic inflammation of the parotid gland.

Diagnosis of parotid gland diseases

Diagnosis of parotid gland diseases includes the following methods:

1. **Clinical examination** - identification of pain points, swelling and other external signs of the disease.
2. **Ultrasound examination (US)** - allows you to evaluate the structure of the gland, identify the presence of tumors, cysts and inflammation.
3. **Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)** is used for more accurate diagnosis of tumors, infections and other deep changes.
4. **Sialography** is an X-ray examination method that can be used to assess the condition of the salivary gland ducts and identify possible abnormalities such as stones.
5. **Biopsy** is performed for the final diagnosis of tumors and allows one to determine the nature of the formation.

Treatment of parotid gland diseases

Treatment of parotid gland diseases depends on the cause of the disease and may include both conservative methods and surgical interventions.

1. **Antibacterial and antiviral therapy** - for infectious diseases such as mumps or sialadenitis, antibiotics or antiviral drugs are used to eliminate the infection.
2. **Anti-inflammatory drugs** - nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) help reduce inflammation and pain.
3. **Dry therapy and supportive therapy** - for autoimmune diseases such as Sjogren's syndrome, medications aimed at increasing salivation, as well as moisturizers are used.
4. **Surgery** - indicated for tumors, abscesses, or stones in the ducts. Surgical removal of tumors or drainage of abscesses may be necessary to prevent complications.
5. **Radiation therapy and chemotherapy** are used for malignant tumors of the parotid glands.

Forecast

The prognosis of parotid gland diseases depends on the type of disease and the timeliness of diagnosis. In most cases, acute inflammatory diseases, such as sialadenitis, respond well to treatment and the prognosis is favorable. However, malignant tumors require a comprehensive approach and may have a less favorable prognosis, especially if they are diagnosed at a later stage.

Conclusion

Parotid gland diseases are a diverse group of pathologies that can significantly disrupt the function of these important exocrine glands. Early detection and adequate treatment of diseases helps to avoid complications and improve the quality of life of patients. It is important to continue developing diagnostic methods and improving approaches to treating parotid gland diseases to increase their effectiveness.

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