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Letter to the editor

Mucinous cystadenoma of oral minor salivary glands: Precursor of mucocele?

To the Editor,

Sir,

Minor salivary gland mucinous cystadenomas are rarely reported [1,2]. We had recently the opportunity to detect such a cyst on a labial salivary gland biopsy. The lesion consisted in a 1-mm sized cyst lined by mucinous cells, Alcian blue positive. The cyst lumina was contiguous with mucinous acini and an intralobular duct with flattened epithelium (Fig. 1). At the periphery of the cyst there were atrophic acini as well as normal, mucinous acini. The p63 stain showed a relatively continuous line of basal positive cells. Papillary projections were not detected except at the communication site with the acini or duct. The main differential diagnosis was that of cystic dystrophy of salivary gland acini. The presence of intraluminal mucus and of a mucus-secreting cyst-lining of normal thickness as well as the lack of obstacle of the duct system, along // with the presence of a papillary-type pattern at the connection site to the acini rather suggest a cystadenoma-type lesion. Zones of connection to the duct system along with the presence of a flattened duct epithelium suggest a possible evolution to a retention-type mucocele.

In conclusion, milimetric, microscopic mucinous cystadenomas may be detected on minor salivary gland biopsies. Besides the possible evolution to malignancy, the evolution towards mucocele should be acknowledged.

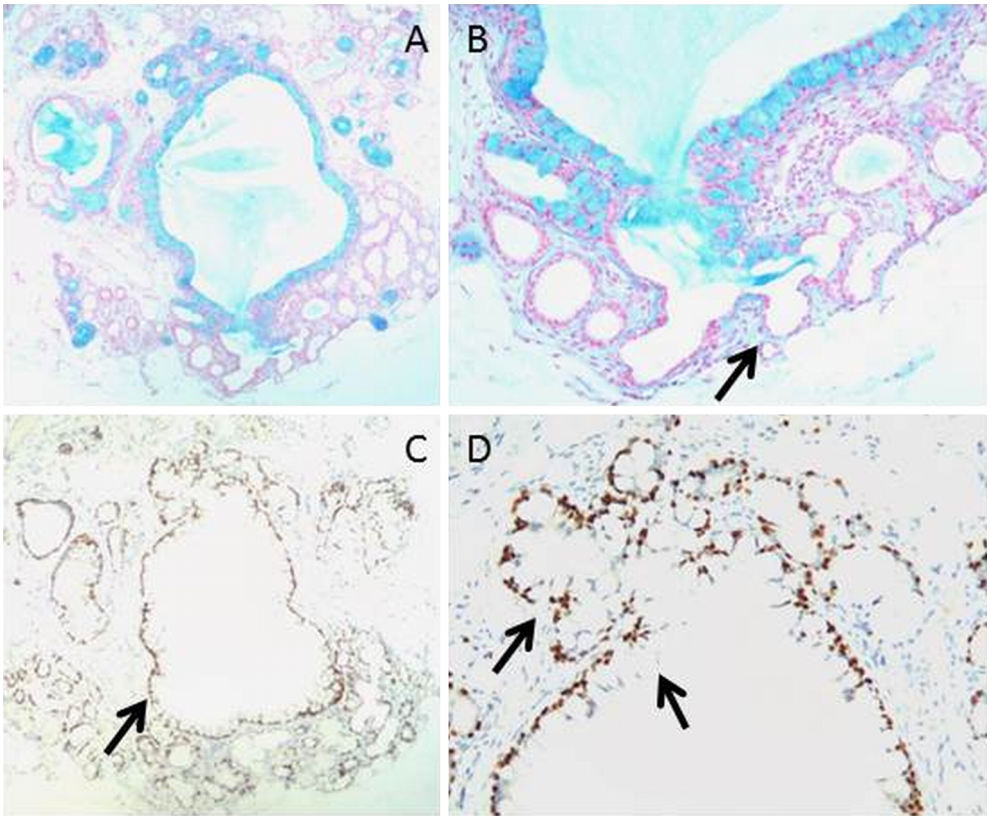

Fig. 1. The cyst, located in the minor salivary glands, was lined by Alcian blue mucus-secreting cells (A and B). The cyst communicated with ducts lined by a flattened epithelium (B: arrow). The cyst also communicated with mucinous-type acini and, showed papillary projections at the level of communication (D: black arrows). Original magnification ×5 (A and C) ×20 (B and D).

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Declaration of Competing Interest

The author does not have conflicts of interests.

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