

# Lymphadenoma of the salivary gland: clinicopathological and immunohistochemical analysis of 33 tumors

Raja R Seethala<sup>1</sup>, Lester DR Thompson<sup>2</sup>, Douglas R Gnepp<sup>3</sup>, E Leon Barnes<sup>1</sup>, Alena Skalova<sup>4</sup>, Kathleen Montone<sup>5</sup>, Shubhada Kane<sup>6</sup>, James S Lewis Jr<sup>7</sup>, Lynn W Solomon<sup>8</sup>, Roderick HW Simpson<sup>9</sup>, Ashraf Khan<sup>10</sup> and Manju L Prasad<sup>11</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Departments of Pathology, Presbyterian University Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA, USA; <sup>2</sup>Woodland Hills Medical Center, Woodland Hills, CA, USA; <sup>3</sup>Rhode Island Hospital of Brown University, Providence, RI, USA; <sup>4</sup>Medical Faculty of Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic; <sup>5</sup>Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA; <sup>6</sup>Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, India; <sup>7</sup>Washington University School of Medicine, St Louis, MO, USA; <sup>8</sup>Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, Boston, MA, USA; <sup>9</sup>Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter, UK; <sup>10</sup>UMass Memorial Medical Center, Worcester, MA, USA and <sup>11</sup>Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT, USA

**Lymphadenomas (LADs) are rare salivary gland tumors. Their clinicopathologic characteristics and etiopathogenesis are poorly understood. We examined 33 LADs in 31 patients (17 women and 14 men) aged 11–79 years (median 65 years). There were 22 sebaceous LADs in 21 patients (9 women and 12 men) and 11 non-sebaceous LADs in 10 patients (8 women and 2 men). Two patients had synchronous double tumors. Twenty-six tumors (79%) arose in parotid, three in the neck, and two each in submandibular gland and oral cavity. Extraparotid tumors were seen in 2 of 21 (10%) patients with sebaceous and 4 of 10 (40%) patients with non-sebaceous LADs. Seven of twenty-three (30%) patients had immunosuppressive therapy for unrelated diseases. The tumors were well circumscribed, encapsulated ( $n=28$ , 84%) painless masses, varying in size from 0.6 to 6 cm (median 2.2). The cut surfaces were gray-tan to yellow, homogeneous and multicystic ( $n=24$ , 72%). The epithelial cells were basaloid, squamous and glandular, forming solid nests, cords, tubules, and cysts. Sebaceous differentiation was restricted to sebaceous lymphadenoma. The epithelial cells expressed basal cell markers (p63, 34BE12, and/or CK5/6, 18/18, 100%) and the luminal glandular cells expressed CK7 (12/12, 100%). Myoepithelial cells were absent ( $n=10/16$ , 63%) or focal. The lymphoid stroma was reactive, with germinal centers in 28 (84%). There was no evidence of HPV (0/11), EBV (0/7), and HHV-8 (0/8). Malignant transformation to sebaceous and basal cell adenocarcinoma was seen in one patient each. None of the 11 patients with follow-up (1–8 years) recurred. In summary, sebaceous and non-sebaceous LADs are benign, encapsulated, solid and cystic tumors affecting older adults. Non-sebaceous LADs affect women and extraparotid sites more frequently than sebaceous LADs. Altered immune status may have a role in their etiopathogenesis. Multiple synchronous tumors, origin in buccal mucosa, and malignant transformation may rarely occur.**

*Modern Pathology* (2012) 25, 26–35; doi:10.1038/modpathol.2011.135; published online 2 September 2011

**Keywords:** benign; lymphadenoma; neoplasm; salivary gland

Correspondence: Associate Professor ML Prasad, MD, Department of Pathology, Yale University School of Medicine, PO Box 208070, 310 Cedar Street, New Haven, CT 06520, USA.

E-mail: manju.prasad@yale.edu

Received 17 February 2011; revised 8 June 2011; accepted 8 June 2011; published online 2 September 2011

Lymphadenomas (LADs) are rare benign tumors of the major salivary glands comprising biphasic tumor cell population that show groups of epithelial cells with or without sebaceous differentiation admixed with intense, reactive lymphoid proliferation. Since its first description in 1960 by McGavran *et al*,<sup>1</sup> <75 cases<sup>2–5</sup> have been published, the largest series comprising three cases only.<sup>6</sup> The clinicopathological

features are poorly understood, and the etiology is unknown. LADs are typically tumors of the adults, and present as painless mass of long duration in the parotid gland. In most tumors, the epithelial component comprising benign basal and squamous cells with sebaceous differentiation. A much smaller number of tumors lack sebaceous differentiation.<sup>7</sup> Only 11 non-sebaceous LAD are reported in the literature.<sup>5,6,8–16</sup> We present a multicenter experience with 33 salivary LAD: 22 sebaceous and 11 non-sebaceous, in order to better define their clinicopathological characteristics, and explore their etiopathogenesis including association with malignancy, altered immune status, and viral infection.

## Materials and methods

The study comprising 33 LAD diagnosed at 10 different institutions by head and neck pathologists with several years of experience in salivary gland pathology. Clinical information, pathologic findings, and results of immunohistochemistry (IHC) were analyzed (Table 1). In order to explore viral etiology, strong and diffuse (>80%) cytoplasmic and nuclear expression of p16 was considered a surrogate marker of high risk type HPV infection, as described in tonsillar squamous cell carcinoma. *In situ* hybridization for HPV was performed in tumors strongly and diffusely positive for p16<sup>17</sup> using a wide spectrum HPV-DNA probe set (code Y1404, Dako, Carpinteria, CA), followed by subtyping, if positive. *In situ* hybridization for EBV-encoded RNA (EBER) was performed. One of the patients was included in a series of sclerosing polycystic adenosis,<sup>18</sup> and another was the subject of a case report on bilateral intraoral sebaceous LAD.<sup>19</sup>

## Results

Twenty-two sebaceous and eleven non-sebaceous LADs were identified in thirty-one patients (Tables

2–4). The tumors were solitary in 29 patients (94%). A 54-year-old man developed bilateral sebaceous LAD as pedunculated masses in the right and left posterior buccal mucosa (patient SL18a,b in Table 3), and a 70-year-old man suffering from chronic lymphocytic leukemia developed two non-sebaceous LAD in right intraparotid lymph nodes (patient NSL8a,b in Table 4).

## Clinical Features

Table 2 summarizes the age and sex distribution, and the tumor size, and Tables 3 and 4 show clinical features in the two subtypes of LAD. All but five patients were older than 50 years (84%), and only one was a child: an 11-year-old girl with non-sebaceous LAD (patient NSL7; Table 4). Twenty-six tumors (79%) arose in the parotid, two in the submandibular salivary gland, and two in the buccal mucosa. One tumor arose within the right cervical lymph node and in two tumors the location was reported as 'left neck'. Nineteen of twenty-one (90%) patients had intraparotid sebaceous LAD, compared with 6 of 10 (60%) patients with non-sebaceous LAD. Thirty tumors presented as painless masses, some slowly enlarging (Figure 1a). The duration of symptoms, when known, ranged from a few months to several years.

Medical history was available in 23 patients, and 11 of them (48%) had co-morbidities that included diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, coronary artery disease, depression, hypothyroidism, obesity, autoimmune and neoplastic diseases. Five patients had malignancies: basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma of the skin in one patient each (patients SL7 and SL16, respectively; Table 3), breast carcinoma in one (patient SL20; Table 3), low-grade salivary duct carcinoma in one (patient NSL4; Table 4), and chronic lymphocytic leukemia in one patient (patient NSL8; Table 4). Two patients were on immunomodulatory drugs for rheumatoid arthritis

**Table 1** Immunohistochemistry panel

Antibody	Clone	Dilution	Antigen retrieval	Vendor
Calponin	CALP	1:500	Dako TRS	Dako, Carpinteria, CA
CD3	Rabbit polyclonal	1:200	Dako TRS	Dako
CD5	4C7	1:100	Dako TRS	Vector, Burlingame, CA
CD20	L26	1:1000	Dako TRS	Dako
CD79a	HM57	1:50	Dako TRS	Dako
CK5/6	D5/16 B4	1:50	EDTA pH8	Dako
CK7	OV-TL 12/30	1:200	Dako TRS	Dako
CK20	K <sub>s</sub> 20.8	1:200	Dako TRS	Dako
EBV-LMP	CS 1-4	1:50	Trypsin	Dako
HHV-8	13B10	1:25	Dako TRS	Novocastra, UK
HMWK	34βE12	1:50	Dako TRS	Dako
Ki-67	MIB-1	1:200	Dako TRS	Dako
p16	E6H4	Neat	Dako TRS	MTM Labs, Germany
p63	4A4	1:20	Dako TRS	Chemicon, Temecula, CA
SMA	1A4	1:800	Dako TRS	Dako
SMMS	SMMS-1	1:1600	Dako TRS	Biogenex, San Ramon, CA
S100	Rabbit polyclonal	1:1600	Dako TRS	Dako

**Table 2** Sebaceous and non-sebaceous lymphadenomas

<i>Lymphadenomas</i>	<i>Age—Median (range)</i>	<i>Sex (ratio)</i>	<i>Size—Median (range)</i>
Sebaceous ( <i>n</i> = 22)	63.5 years (35–84)	9F:12M (1:1.3)	2.9 cm (1–6)
Non-sebaceous ( <i>n</i> = 11)	65.5 years (11–78)	8F:2M (4:1)	1.5 cm (0.6–5)
All lymphadenoma ( <i>n</i> = 33)	65 years (11–84)	17F:14M (1.2:1)	2.2 cm (0.6–6)

Abbreviations: F, female; M, male.

**Table 3** Sebaceous lymphadenomas: clinical information

<i>Cases</i>	<i>Age/sex</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Presentation</i>	<i>Size (cm)</i>
SL1	42F	L parotid	Mass	2.2
SL2	48M	R parotid	Mass for 6 years	3.5
SL3	67F	Parotid	Unknown	2
SL4	84F	L parotid	Mass—slowly enlarging	3.5
SL5	74F	R parotid	Mass <sup>a</sup>	1.5
SL6	74M	L parotid	Mass—slowly enlarging	6
SL7	76M	R parotid	Mass <sup>b</sup>	5.5
SL8	53F	L parotid	Mass	2.9
SL9	59F	R parotid	Mass	1
SL10	74M	R parotid	Mass for 6 months	2.3
SL11	55M	L neck	Mass	2.1
SL12	53M	R parotid	Mass	5.1
SL13	74M	L parotid	Mass	3.2
SL14	60M	L parotid	Mass	1.8
SL15	43F	R parotid	Mass	2.3
SL16	76M	R parotid	Mass for 2 months	1.2
SL17	35M	L parotid	Mass—long standing <sup>c</sup>	3.1
SL18a	54M	R buccal	Pedunculated mass	Unknown
SL18b	Same patient as above	L buccal	Pedunculated mass	Unknown
SL19	64F	R parotid	Mass for 3 months	2.2
SL20	79M	R parotid	Mass for 2 months	3.5
SL21	77F	R parotid	Mass for many years	3.3

Abbreviations: F, female; L, left; M, male; R, right; SL, sebaceous lymphadenoma.

Duration of presentation, side and location, when known is mentioned.

<sup>a</sup>Malignant transformation to basal cell.

<sup>b</sup>Malignant transformation to sebaceous adenocarcinoma.

<sup>c</sup>Associated with Warthin tumor and sclerosing polycystic adenosis.

**Table 4** Non-sebaceous lymphadenomas: clinical information

<i>Cases</i>	<i>Age/sex</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Presentation</i>	<i>Size (cm)</i>
NSL1	62F	L submandibular	Mass	5
NSL2	52F	Neck	Mass	1.1
NSL3	76M	R parotid	Mass	1.5
NSL4 <sup>a</sup>	78F	R cervical lymph node	Mass	0.9
NSL5	66F	L parotid	Mass	2
NSL6	70F	R parotid	Mass	2.1
NSL7	11F	L parotid	Mass	3.5
NSL8a <sup>b</sup>	70M	R Intraparotid lymph node	Unknown	1.2
NSL8b <sup>b</sup>	Same patient as above	Same as above	Unknown	0.6
NSL9	65F	L parotid	Mass for 4 months	1.5
NSL11	60F	R submandibular	Mass	2.9

Abbreviations: F, female; L, left; M, male; R, right; NSL, non-sebaceous lymphadenoma.

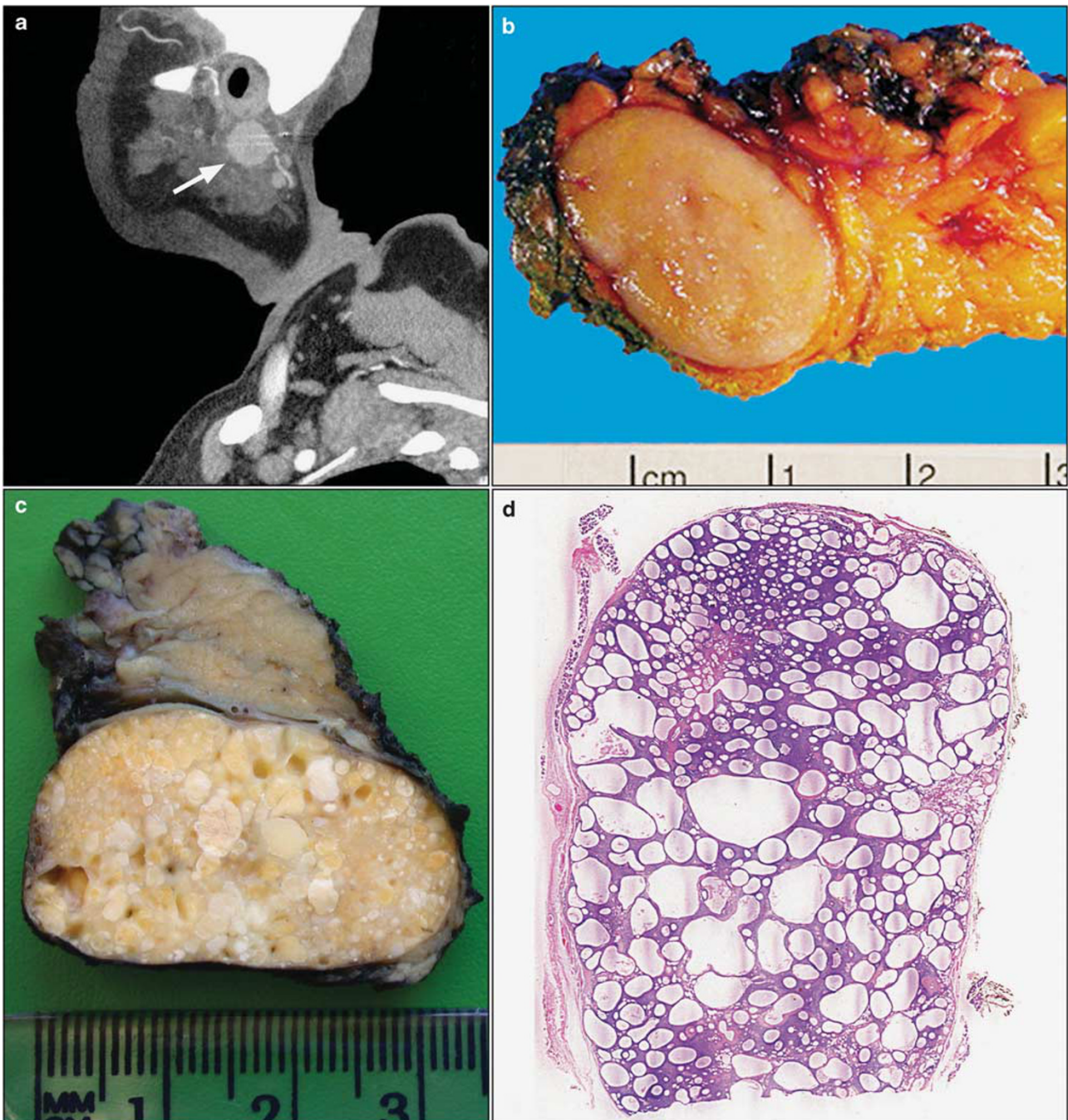
Duration of presentation when known is mentioned.

<sup>a</sup>History of low-grade salivary duct carcinoma.

<sup>b</sup>Associated with chronic lymphocytic leukemia.

for several years including one with breast carcinoma (patients SL16 and SL20; Table 3). Thus, in 7 of the 23 patients (30%) there was history of immunomodulatory drug therapy for autoimmune diseases,

cancer chemotherapy or preexisting low-grade malignancies. The tumors were resected in 22 of 23 patients, the excisions designated as parotidectomy in 18 (superficial 5, deep 1, and not specified



**Figure 1** Sebaceous lymphadenoma. (a, b) Sixty-four-year-old woman (SL19): contrast enhanced computerized tomography shows a well-defined mass (arrow) in the right preauricular area (a). The tumor was firm and well circumscribed, measured 2.2 cm in size and had a tan, homogeneous cut surface (b). (c, d) Seventy-nine-year-old man with a 3.5-cm encapsulated mass in the right parotid (SL20). The cut surface is tan yellow and multicystic (c) with cysts measuring up to 5 mm (d).

12). No recurrences were noted in 11 patients with follow-up ranging from 1 to 8 years (median 2.5 years).

### Pathology

All tumors were well circumscribed with a median size of 2.2 cm, and 28 of 33 (84%) tumors were

encapsulated (Figures 1b–d). Twenty-four of thirty-three (72%) tumors were homogenous, multicystic, gray-tan to yellow. The cyst contents in four grossly cystic tumors were gelatinous, yellow sebum like, and chalky white in one case each, and not specified in the fourth tumor.

Microscopically, in sebaceous LAD the epithelial component comprising solid nests, trabeculae, cords, glands, and tubules of basal, glandular,

squamous, and sebaceous cells (Figures 2a–c). Most cell clusters had a basal cell layer at the periphery, and solid or cystic centers. Tubuloglandular structures showed two cell layers with an outer basal cell layer and an inner luminal glandular cell layer comprising cuboidal or low columnar cells. Keratinization was frequent in squamous cells. Clusters of sebaceous cells, tubules, and cysts with sebaceous cells in lining epithelium were frequent. Cyst contents were keratinous material, eosinophilic proteinaceous fluid, or sebaceous secretions.

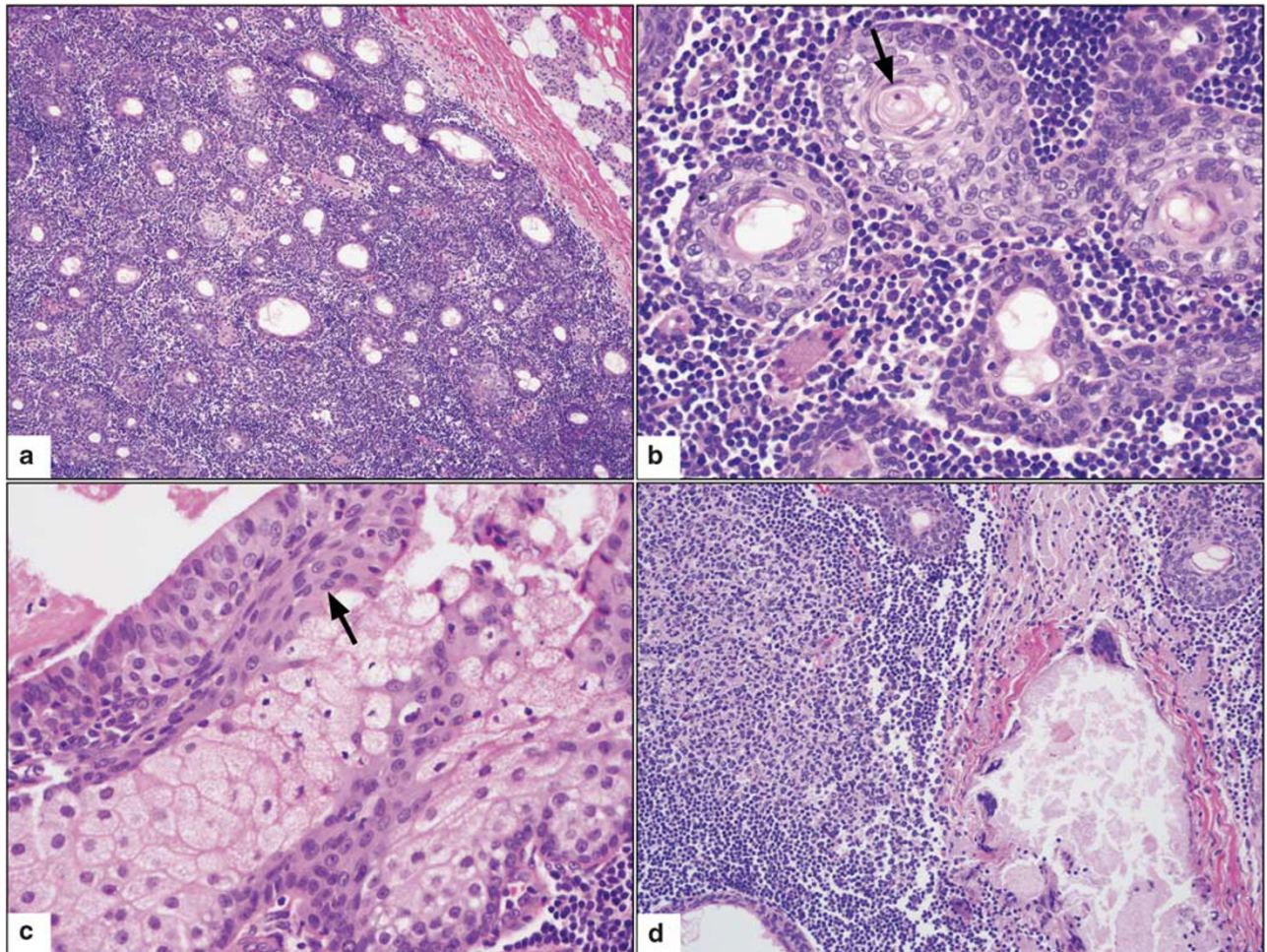
In non-sebaceous LAD, the epithelial component comprising predominantly solid cords and trabeculae of basal cells admixed with low columnar cells around tubuloglandular spaces without any sebaceous differentiation (Figures 3a and b). Squamous differentiation with keratinization was seen less frequently (2/11, 18%).

The lymphocytic infiltrate comprising mixed populations of B and T lymphocytes was prominent in all LAD, with germinal centers in 28 of 33 (84%)

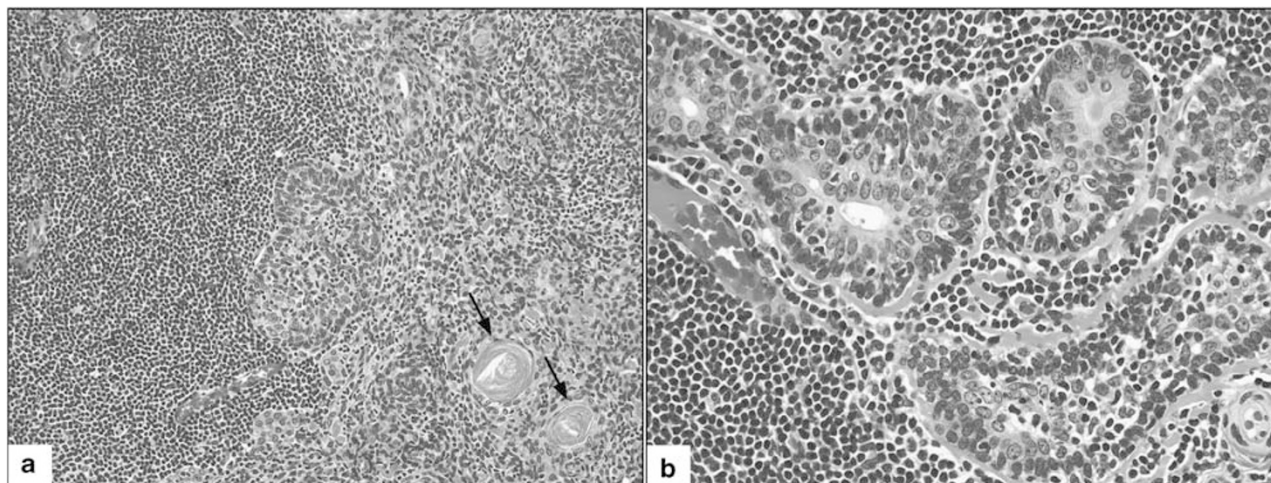
tumors (Figure 2d). Stromal foreign body type giant cell granulomatous reaction (Figure 2d) was frequently noted in association with ruptured cyst in sebaceous LAD ( $n = 11/22$ , 50%), and less frequently in non-sebaceous LAD ( $n = 2/11$ , 18%). Intraepithelial B and T lymphocytes were noted in 13 of 13 tumors, but were remarkable in only 1 case (Figure 3b). Five tumors appeared to be intranodal with intact lymph node capsule. Two of these (40%) also had adjacent normal salivary tissue elements within the lymph node.

Oncocytic change was seen in a combined sebaceous LAD and Warthin tumor that was associated with an adjacent sclerosing polycystic adenosis tumor within the same parotid gland (patient SL17; Table 3).

The epithelial cells were typically negative for mucin by mucicarmine stain (8/8 tumors). Intraluminal mucin was occasionally detected (2/8 tumors). Periodic Schiff's stain (with and without diastase) highlighted the basement membrane and stained the intraluminal secretions (5/5) cases.



**Figure 2** Sebaceous lymphadenoma (a, b from SL19, same case as in Figures 1a and b). The tumor is biphasic with epithelial and lymphoid components, and is separated from the adjacent uninvolved parotid gland by a thin fibrous capsule (a,  $\times 10$ ). Solid and microcystic clusters with squamous and sebaceous differentiation on the inside and basal cells on the outside. Focal keratinization (arrow) is seen (b,  $\times 40$ ). Sebaceous lymphadenoma (SL17) showing a cyst lined by columnar cells, large foamy sebaceous cells, a small area of squamous cells (arrow) and basal cells at the periphery (c,  $\times 40$ ). Foreign body type giant cell reaction to ruptured cyst contents is seen adjacent to a lymphoid follicle with germinal center (d,  $\times 20$ ).



**Figure 3** Non-sebaceous lymphadenoma in an 11-year-old girl (NSL7) showing solid clusters of basaloid cells with keratinizing (arrows) squamous cells (**a**,  $\times 20$ ) and low columnar cells lining tubules with intraepithelial lymphocytes (**b**,  $\times 40$ ).

**Table 5** Ancillary studies in lymphadenomas

Study	Sebaceous lymphadenoma	Non-sebaceous lymphadenoma	All tumors
<i>Immunohistochemistry</i>			
Basal cell markers			
p63	11/11	7/7	18/18 (100%)
HMWK	3/3	2/2	5/5 (100%)
CK5/6	8/8	1/1	9/9 (100%)
Epithelial markers			
CK7	8/8	4/4	12/12 (100%)
CK20	1/7	0/4	1/11 (0.9%)
Myoepithelial markers (calponin, SMA, SMMS, S100)	3/8	3/8	6/16 (37.5%)
Proliferation index (Ki-67) <sup>a</sup>	0/3	0/2	0/5
Lymphoid component			
Reactive mixed B and T cells	4/4	2/4 <sup>b</sup>	6/8 <sup>b</sup> (75%)
<i>Viral markers</i>			
HPV			
P16	0/9	0/2	0/11 (0%)
HPV-ISH	7/8	0/2	0/10 <sup>c</sup>
EBV	0/5	0/2	0/7
EBV			
EBER	0/7	0/6	0/13 (0%)
EBV-LMP	0/7	0/4	0/11
	—	0/3	0/3
HHV-8 (KSHV)	0/6	0/2	0/8 (0%)

<sup>a</sup>Proliferation index was evaluated in epithelial cells and considered negative when  $<5\%$ .

<sup>b</sup>The lymphoid component was immunophenotypically consistent with CLL in one patient with preexisting diagnosis of CLL.

<sup>c</sup>Strong, diffuse nuclear and cytoplasmic expression of p16 has been correlated with HPV infection and was not seen in any tumor.

IHC results are summarized in Table 5. The basal cells were positive for at least one of the basal cell markers (p63, CK5/6, and/or high molecular weight keratin) in all cases that were tested. In tubuloglandular structures, the luminal cells expressed CK7 while the abluminal basal cells, sebaceous and squamous cells were negative. All tumors were negative for CK20 except for focal expression in a sebaceous LAD. Myoepithelial markers (calponin, smooth muscle actin, smooth muscle myosin, and/or S100 protein) were negative in 10 of 16 cases (63%), and focally expressed in a few abluminal

basaloid cells in 5 tumors. Proliferation marker (Ki-67) showed appropriately intense expression in the germinal centers but absent or occasional expression ( $<5\%$ ) in epithelial cells. The lymphoid population was reactive and mixed B- and T-cell types. The germinal centers were populated by B cells (CD20 and/or CD79a positive) and the interfollicular areas by T cells (CD3 and/or CD5) as seen in reactive follicular hyperplasia. Intraepithelial lymphocytes were T-cell type in one, and mixed B- and T-cell types in another tumor where their immunophenotype was examined. In one patient

with two non-sebaceous LAD in the right parotid, the lymphoid infiltrate was malignant, positive for CD20, CD5, CD23, and negative for cyclin D1, consistent with his preexisting chronic lymphocytic leukemia (patient NSL8a,b in Table 4; Figures 4a–c).

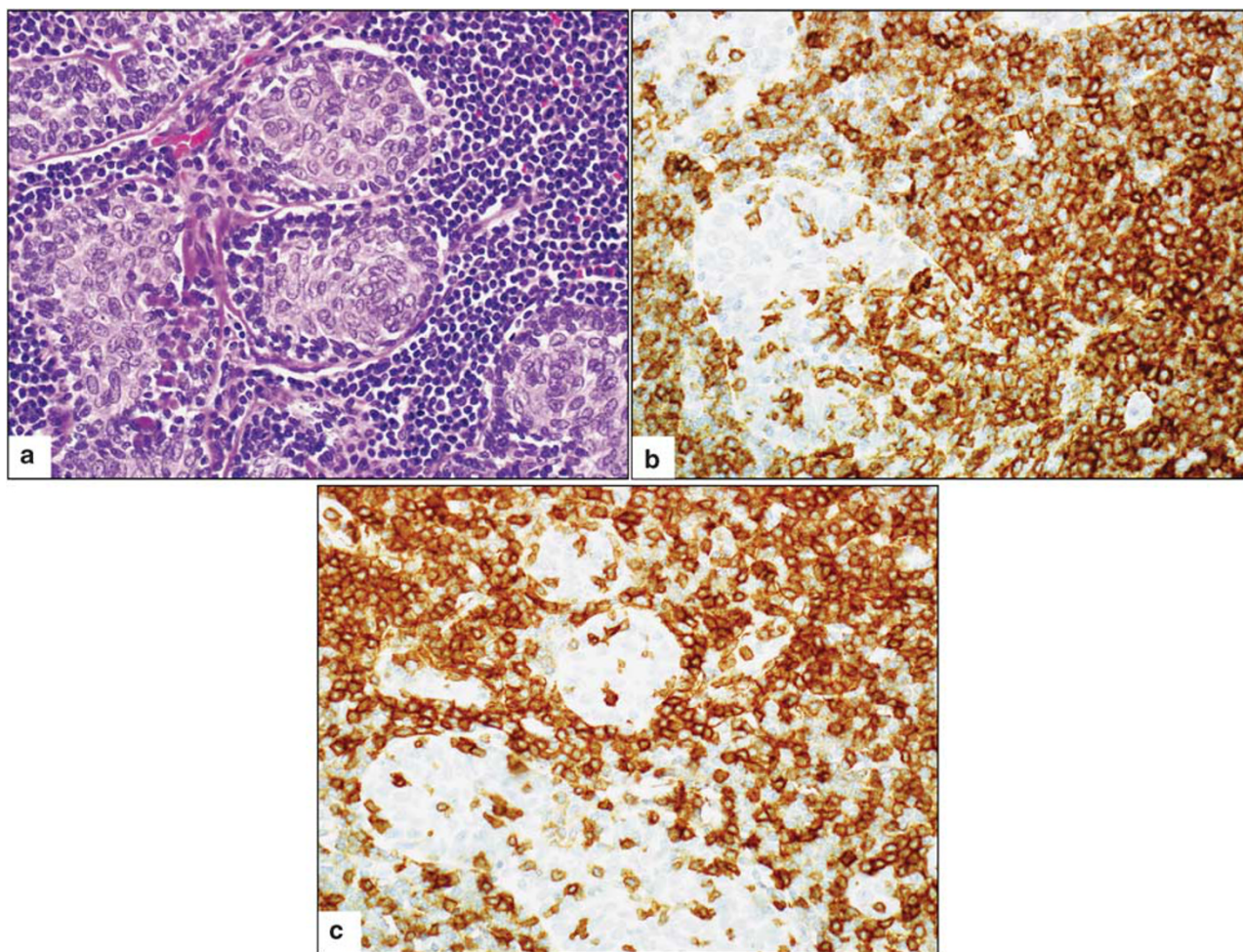
### Viral Studies

Focal weak-to-moderate p16 expression was noted in epithelial cells in 8 of 10 cases, but none showed strong, diffuse nuclear and cytoplasmic expression of p16 as is typical of HPV-associated squamous cell carcinomas. None of the tumors tested were positive for HPV, EBV, and HHV-8 (Table 5).

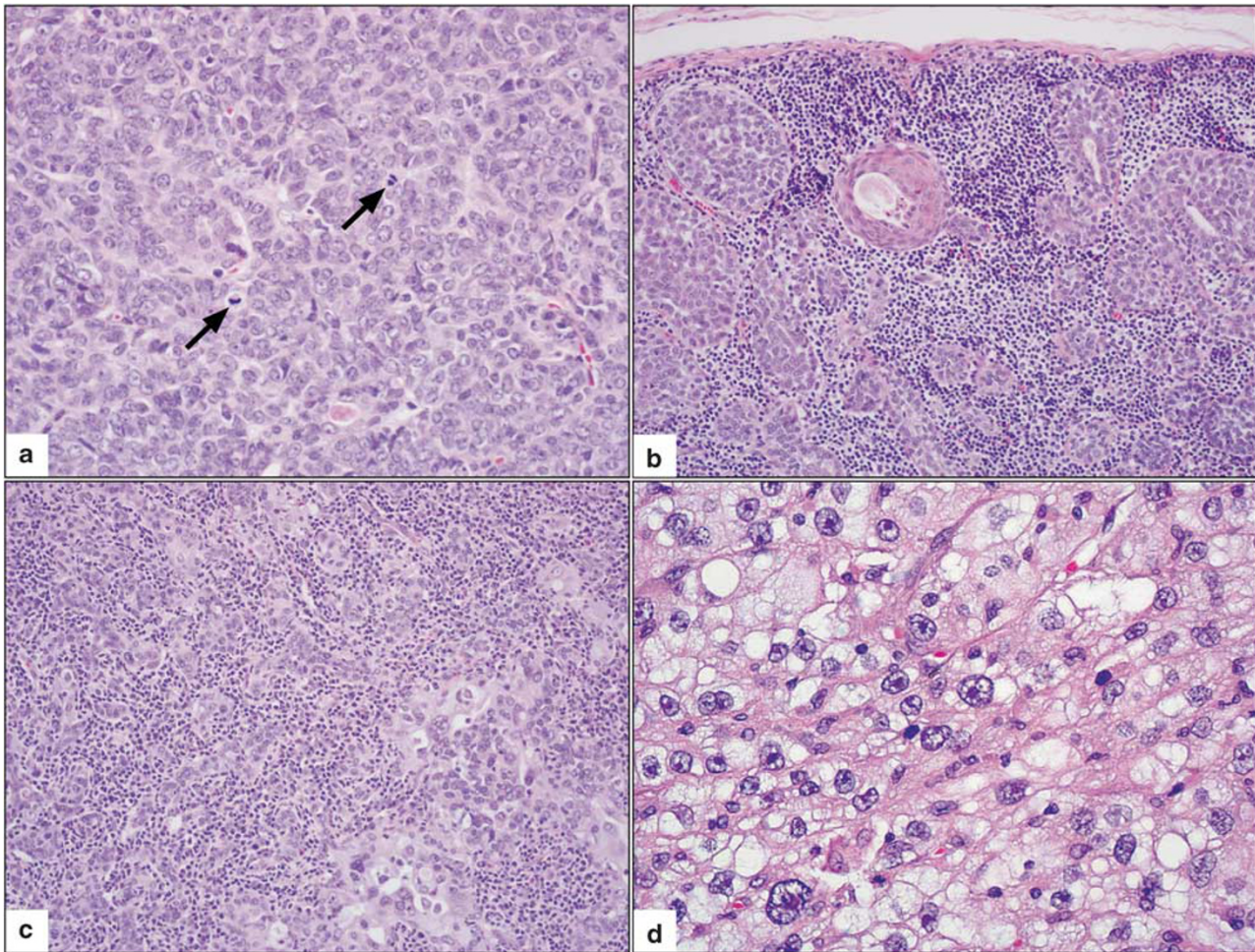
### Malignant Transformation and Associated Salivary Gland Pathology

Two sebaceous LADs showed malignant transformation: a 74-year-old woman developed basal cell adenocarcinoma (patient SL5; Table 3; Figures 5a and b) and a 76-year-old man developed sebaceous

carcinoma (patient SL7; Table 3; Figures 5c and d). Both tumors showed benign component and areas of transition from benign to malignant (Figures 5b and c). The diagnosis of malignancy was based on mitoses and increased cellularity in basal cell adenocarcinoma where the tumor cells remained monomorphic (Figure 5a). In the sebaceous carcinoma, there was significant cytologic atypia, nuclei were large and vesicular with prominent nucleoli, and the cytoplasm was foamy (Figures 5c and d). A 70-year-old man with preexisting chronic lymphocytic leukemia developed two non-sebaceous LAD in two intraparotid lymph nodes in the right parotid (patient NSL8; Table 4; Figure 4). A 78-year-old woman with intranodal non-sebaceous LAD in the right neck had prior history of low-grade intraductal carcinoma in the right parotid gland (patient NSL4; Table 4). The LAD was morphologically not consistent with metastatic adenocarcinoma. No follow-up was available in these patients after resection of their LAD. A 35-year-old man (patient SL17; Table 3) had combined sebaceous LAD and Warthin tumor associated with an adjacent but separate sclerosing polycystic adenosis tumor.



**Figure 4** (a–c) Non-sebaceous lymphadenoma in a 70-year-old man with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (NSL8). The basaloid epithelial cells are arranged in solid clusters and cords with intraepithelial and stromal malignant small B lymphocytes (a,  $\times 40$ ) that are positive for CD20 (b,  $\times 40$ ) and CD5 (c,  $\times 40$ ).



**Figure 5** Malignant transformation in lymphadenoma. (a–b) Seventy-four-year-old man with 1.5 cm sebaceous lymphadenoma in the right parotid gland. Tumor shows an area of basal cell adenocarcinoma comprising sheets of monomorphic basaloid cells with frequent mitoses (arrows, a,  $\times 40$ ). The capsule is intact and benign areas consistent with lymphadenoma are present within the tumor (b,  $\times 40$ ). (c, d) Sebaceous carcinoma arising in a sebaceous lymphadenoma with area of transition between benign (upper left) and malignant (lower right) epithelial cells (c,  $\times 40$ ). Tumor cells show significant cytologic atypia with abundant foamy cytoplasm, large pleomorphic vesicular nuclei, and prominent nucleoli (d,  $\times 40$ ).

## Discussion

We present clinicopathological and immunophenotypic profile of 33 salivary LAD, the largest series to date. Our observations confirm that LADs are typically benign tumors affecting adults over the age of 50 years (84%), and two thirds of them show some sebaceous differentiation. Interestingly, 48% of patients in the current series suffered from additional co-morbidities, including a subset (30%) that received immunomodulatory drug therapy for autoimmune diseases and/or chemotherapy for cancers, or had associated low-grade malignancies, raising the question of altered immune status as a predisposing factor. Multiple co-morbidities may be coincidental given the advanced age of most patients, although chronic diseases may further alter immune status.

We questioned a possible viral etiology but found no evidence of EBV, HPV, and HHV-8 viruses.

Negative results with *in situ* hybridization for EBER have been reported previously in three non-sebaceous LAD.<sup>6,16</sup> We add another 13 tumors that were negative for EBV. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study exploring the role of HPV or HHV-8 viruses in LAD.

Sebaceous LAD showed a slight male preponderance (1.3–1). This is similar to other sebaceous salivary gland tumors.<sup>2</sup> This may be due to the generally higher concentration of sebaceous glands in men than in women, associated with the higher density of facial hair in the former. Additionally, the site distribution of sebaceous LAD mirrors the distribution of sebaceous rests seen in salivary glands and the oral cavity. Sebaceous cells have been found in 30–40% of normal adult parotid glands<sup>3</sup> and 6% of submandibular glands.<sup>2</sup> Fordyce granules in the buccal mucosa comprising sebaceous glands and may be seen in as many as 80% of normal adults.<sup>3</sup> Despite this, salivary tumors with



sebaceous differentiation are rare. Intraoral sebaceous LAD was first reported by Gnepp and Brannon,<sup>2</sup> included in a series of 21 sebaceous tumors of the salivary gland. Origin in the Fordyce granuloma has been proposed.<sup>19</sup>

To date, 11 non-sebaceous LAD have been reported in the literature, the largest series comprising three cases only.<sup>6,16</sup> We add another 11 cases. Unlike their sebaceous counterparts, the non-sebaceous tumors were more common in women than in men, similar to most salivary gland tumors. Additionally, 40% of the patients had extraparotid non-sebaceous LAD in contrast to sebaceous LAD that was intraparotid in nearly 90% of patients. No other demographic, clinical, or pathologic differences were found in these two subtypes. Some investigators argue that non-sebaceous LAD may not be a distinct entity but rather a basal cell adenoma or cystadenoma with extensive lymphoid infiltrate.<sup>4,6,9,11</sup> The non-sebaceous LAD tend to have more focal keratinization, less peripheral palisading, generally lack the production of basement membrane material and have a small or non-existent myoepithelial component as compared with basal cell adenomas.<sup>6,12-14,16</sup>

The prominent reactive mixed B- and T-cell proliferation with germinal centers is identical to follicular hyperplasia of reactive lymph nodes, and is a defining feature of LAD. We frequently noted a granulomatous reaction in sebaceous LAD, likely secondary to ruptured cyst contents. The possibility that LAD are intranodal tumors arising in intranodal sebaceous or salivary inclusions akin to Warthin tumor has been proposed.<sup>1-3</sup> In a recent report, Dardick and Thomas<sup>13</sup> used a definition of non-sebaceous LAD that excluded cases with any evidence of lymph node architecture. Our diagnostic criteria are admittedly more liberal in that one sebaceous and four non-sebaceous LADs in the current series were intranodal, three in cervical lymph nodes, and two in intraparotid lymph nodes. Intraparotid and cervical nodes in the vicinity of the parotid may have salivary inclusions, and as such may develop primary intranodal salivary gland neoplasms, both benign and malignant. Thus, we felt that it was justifiable to retain these cases for this study. In fact, two of the intranodal tumors also had normal salivary tissue elements within the lymph node.

LADs are exceedingly rare in children with only four reported cases (Table 6).<sup>6,16,20,21</sup> To our knowledge, the 11-year-old girl in the present series is the youngest patient with LAD. Table 6 shows a trend to non-sebaceous LAD in the children. This may be because sebaceous differentiation in salivary glands develops later in life and is not present in infants and children.<sup>3</sup>

Mayorga *et al*<sup>22</sup> reported a sebaceous LAD arising in association with acinic cell carcinoma in the parotid gland in a 78-year-old woman. The current series includes seven patients with synchronous or

**Table 6** Review of lymphadenomas in children

Reports	Age/ sex	Lymphadenoma	Location	Size (cm)
Ma <i>et al</i> <sup>6</sup>	13M	Non-sebaceous	Preauricular	3
Rawlinson <i>et al</i> <sup>20</sup>	13F	Sebaceous	Left parotid	2.4
Chang <i>et al</i> <sup>16</sup>	15F	Non-sebaceous	Right parotid	4.5
Sun <i>et al</i> <sup>21</sup>	16M	Sebaceous	Left parotid	2.4
Current series	11F	Non-sebaceous	Left parotid	3.5

metachronous salivary or non-salivary malignant tumors. Two sebaceous LAD in the current series showed transformation into basal cell adenocarcinoma and sebaceous carcinoma, respectively. Carcinomatous change is rare in LAD, and should be suspected when the epithelial component in an otherwise typical LAD begins to show frequent mitoses and significant cytologic atypia with areas of transition from benign to malignant, even in the absence of infiltration of the tumor capsule. Among the five reported cases of sebaceous lymphadenocarcinoma including one in the current series and four in the literature, there were four men and one woman.<sup>2,23,24</sup> Rarely, LAD may be associated with other benign salivary tumors as in one of our cases where a 35-year-old man had a combined sebaceous LAD and Warthin tumor, adjacent to a separate sclerosing polycystic adenosis tumor.<sup>18</sup>

Both sebaceous and non-sebaceous LAD raise several differential diagnostic considerations,<sup>13</sup> most important being metastatic low-grade adenocarcinoma and adenosquamous carcinoma involving intraparotid lymph node. Nodal metastasis is not the primary presentation in low-grade adenocarcinomas. Mitoses in LAD are restricted to the germinal centers in the lymphoid component, and were absent or rare in the epithelial cells. Epithelial cells in LAD do not show cellular atypia or other overt features of malignancy. The lack of sinusoidal pattern of epithelial growth may be helpful in ruling out nodal metastasis. Primary or metastatic lymphoepithelial carcinoma may mimic non-sebaceous LAD; however, severe atypia, brisk mitosis, infiltrating growth, and frequent association with EBV distinguish them from benign tumors. Tumor cell nests in lymphoepithelial carcinoma tend to be more syncytial in nature, comprising cells with indistinct membranes and characteristic large vesicular nuclei with prominent nucleoli. Mucoepidermoid carcinoma may occasionally show prominent lymphoid stroma and focal sebaceous differentiation. Identification of the three basic cell types, epidermoid, intermediate and, especially, mucous cells, and the absence of keratinization are useful features in recognizing mucoepidermoid carcinoma. Additionally, when present, infiltration may help distinguish mucoepidermoid carcinoma from LAD. Occasionally, the lymphoid component may lead to the consideration of lymphoma. Demonstration of

mixed B and T cells and lack of light chain restriction should help rule it out. Among benign conditions lymphoepithelial cysts, lymphoepithelial sialadenitis and other salivary gland tumors with sebaceous differentiation may need to be distinguished from LAD. Lymphoepithelial cysts tend to be multifocal and bilateral, and do not have the distinct circumscription and encapsulation seen in LAD. Lymphoepithelial sialadenitis tends to involve the gland diffusely. Of note, none of our LAD arose in the setting of lymphoepithelial sialadenitis. In fine needle aspirations, LAD may be mistaken for Warthin tumor due to their lymphoid contents,<sup>15,21</sup> but the absence of oncocyctic cells should help rule out the latter.

In summary, LADs are encapsulated, benign solid and/or cystic tumors of major salivary glands affecting patient in their sixth to eighth decade. A remarkable female preponderance was noted for non-sebaceous LAD, similar to other salivary gland tumors, and in contrast to sebaceous LAD, that showed a slight male predilection. The former is also more frequently extraparotid compared with the latter. The prominent reactive lymphoid proliferation is a defining feature. Basal cells appear to be the most predominant epithelial component with frequent sebaceous and squamous differentiation, and show little proliferative activity. Myoepithelial cell participation appears to be insignificant in this neoplastic process. Synchronous or metachronous salivary or non-salivary tumors may be associated with some LAD. Malignant transformation may rarely occur in the epithelial component. Although the etiology remains unknown, altered immune status may be a risk factor in a subset of patients.

## Disclosure/conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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