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### Neurogenic Tumors of the Oral and Maxillofacial Region in a Nigerian Population

#### *Tumeurs Neurogènes de la Région Buccale et Maxillo-Faciale dans une Population Nigériane*

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#### ABSTRACT

**BACKGROUND:** Neurogenic tumors constitute a group of true and pseudo-tumors arising from tissues derived from embryonic neural crest cells. They are rare in the maxillofacial region.

**OBJECTIVES:** To analyze the demographic, clinical presentation and histopathological spectrum of neurogenic tumors of the oral and maxillofacial region seen over a 28-year period.

**MATERIAL AND METHODS:** A retrospective observational study which highlighted the demographic, clinical presentation and histopathological spectrum of neurogenic tumors of the oral and maxillofacial region seen between 1992 and 2020 in a tertiary health facility.

**RESULTS:** A total of 56 patients were studied with a male to female ratio of 1:1.5 and the age spanned from 1 to 72 years (mean of  $26.2 \pm 17.9$  yrs). The commonly involved sites were the cheek (n = 9; 16.0%), scalp (n = 9; 16.0%) and eyelid (n = 6; 10.7%). Histopathological data showed a preponderance (n = 38; 67.9%) of neurofibroma over other types of neurogenic tumors. The treatment modalities used were surgical (n = 37; 94.9%) and oncological (n = 2; 5.1%). Complications noted were recurrence in 2 patients and hypertrophic scar formation in 1 patient.

**CONCLUSION:** In this environment, orofacial neurogenic tumors appear to be common in the second decade of life, affect the extraoral structures mainly and the most common form is neurofibroma. **WAJM 2022; 39(6): 628–634.**

**Keywords:** Nervous system neoplasm, neurofibroma, face, oral and maxillofacial region.

#### RÉSUMÉ

**CONTEXTE:** Les tumeurs neurogènes constituent un groupe de tumeurs vraies et pseudo-tumorales provenant des tissus dérivés des cellules de la crête neurale embryonnaire. Elles sont rares dans la région maxillo-faciale.

**OBJECTIFS:** Analyser la démographie, la présentation clinique et le spectre histopathologique des tumeurs neurogènes de la région orale et maxillo-faciale observées sur une période de 28 ans.

**MATÉRIEL ET MÉTHODES:** Une étude d'observation rétrospective qui a mis en évidence la démographie, la présentation clinique et le spectre histopathologique des tumeurs neurogènes de la région orale et maxillo-faciale observées entre 1992 et 2020 dans un établissement de santé tertiaire.

**RÉSULTATS:** 56 patients au total ont été étudiés, avec un rapport hommes/femmes de 1:1,5 et un âge compris entre 1 et 72 ans (moyenne de  $26,2 \pm 17,9$  ans). Les sites les plus fréquemment touchés étaient la joue (n=9 ; 16,0%), le cuir chevelu (n=9 ; 16,0%) et la paupière (n=6 ; 10,7%). Les données histopathologiques ont montré une prépondérance (n=38 ; 67,9%) de neurofibromes par rapport aux autres types de tumeurs neurogènes. Les modalités de traitement utilisées étaient chirurgicales (n=37 ; 94,9%) et oncologiques (n=2 ; 5,1%). Les complications notées ont été la récurrence chez 2 patients et la formation d'une cicatrice hypertrophique chez 1 patient.

**CONCLUSION:** Dans cet environnement, les tumeurs neurogènes orofaciales semblent être fréquentes dans la deuxième décennie de vie, affectent principalement les structures extraorales et la forme la plus fréquente est le neurofibrome. **WAJM 2022; 39(6): 628–634.**

**Mots clés:** Tumeur du système nerveux, Neurofibrome, Visage, région orale et maxillo-faciale.

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