

Lymphoma of the Tonsil in a Developing Community

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ABSTRACT

The lymphoma of the tonsil is a rarity. Single case reports have appeared in countries as disparate as China, Greece, India, Japan, and Turkey. Therefore, this paper presents cases found in Nigeria among the Ibo ethnic group. The epidemiological comparisons are deemed to be worthy of documentation such as age ranges and sides of involvement.

Key words: Age, epidemiology, lymphoma, Nigerian pattern, tonsil, World Pattern

INTRODUCTION

The tonsil is a rare site of lymphoma. On this accordance, single cases have been reported from China,^[1] Greece,^[2] India,^[3,4] Japan,^[5] and Turkey.^[6] Therefore, this paper presents five cases found in Nigeria among the Ibo indigenous group.^[7] The epidemiological pictures are deemed to be worthy of comparison.

44 years). Thirty Japanese patients were studied, but the age range was not highlighted.^[9]

Of course, children alone may be studied. Two of them were included in the local series. Elsewhere, in Australia^[10] and Brazil,^[11] the emphasis was on them. In the latter series, it was concluded that “patients with unilateral tonsillar enlargement and other findings suggestive of malignancy should undergo tonsillectomy.” This was the practice in this community.

CASE REPORT

These are presented in Table 1.

A point of interest is the provisional diagnosis provided by the doctors who sent the specimen. Whereas malignancy was thought of, none specified lymphoma.

DISCUSSION

The above ages ranged from 8 to 63 years (mean 52 years). Among 19 Iranians,^[8] the range was 22–76 years (mean

Incidentally, local practitioners provided the side involved in all cases, the left preponderating. Curiously, in the Internet series, all but one presented also in the left side!

Table 1: Epidemiological data on tonsil lymphoma in Ibos

Initials	Age	Sex	Side	Doctor	Size	Diagnosis
UC	30	F	B	Udeh	5	Cancer
OS	10	M	L	Mgbor	2	-
NI	8	M	L	Udeh	3	Malignancy
IC	50	F	L	Udeh	4	Cancer
MS	63	M	R	Ibekwe	3	Cancer

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