



“ORAL HYBRID LESIONS: WHAT PATHOLOGISTS NEED TO KNOW”

Dr. Chandana J

IIInd Year Post Graduate Student

The term “hybrid lesions” in oral pathology was first introduced by Waldron and El-Mofty in their study of ameloblastomas, and it has since evolved to describe lesions that exhibit histopathological features from multiple, distinct entities. These lesions present a combination of both benign and malignant elements, making them a complex challenge for diagnosis and treatment. Hybrid lesions can manifest with nonspecific clinical symptoms such as swelling, pain, or ulceration, and may occur in various areas of the oral cavity, including the mandible, maxilla, or tongue. They often involve a mix of benign odontogenic tumors (such as ameloblastomas or cysts) and malignant tumors like squamous cell carcinoma, which makes their accurate diagnosis crucial. A comprehensive approach involving clinical examination, imaging studies, and histopathological evaluation is necessary to differentiate between the benign and malignant components of the lesion. Histopathology plays a pivotal role in identifying the specific features of the lesion and determining its behavior, helping to clarify whether it is benign, malignant, or a combination of both. This makes early recognition and accurate diagnosis essential for effective treatment and patient management.

For future oral pathologists like us, understanding the complexities of hybrid lesions is very valuable as these lesions require a high degree of diagnostic skill, as they present overlapping features that may easily be misdiagnosed without careful histological analysis. By recognizing the hybrid nature early, pathologists can tailor treatment plans to address both benign and malignant components, ensuring the best possible outcomes for patients. This article emphasizes the importance of a multidisciplinary approach like correlating clinical, radiographical and surgical findings also with the help of adjuvant diagnostic techniques like special stains which are cost-effective techniques and can dissolve the queries. Therefore, it is essential to diagnose and treat hybrid lesions, emphasize the need for oral pathologists and remain updated with emerging concepts and challenges within the field. By honing their diagnostic abilities and understanding the evolving nature of oral pathology, future pathologists will be better equipped to handle the intricate cases that hybrid lesions present, improving patient care and advancing their clinical expertise. Since it draws attention to the complexity of hybrid lesions, it is important for us as aspiring oral pathologists to stay updated on novel concepts and challenges. As there are no proper incidence or prevalence rates, there is a high probability that we might also encounter such lesions in our practice. Hence, a keen evaluation of the query cases is necessary.