

Adenosquamous carcinoma: a case study in gynecologic cytology

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ABSTRACT

Adenosquamous carcinoma is rare, representing 4% of cervical tumors. This carcinoma mostly occurs in women with roughly 50 years of age, although also occurs in younger women. Moreover, it is associated with pregnancy and Human Papillomavirus infection.

The present study shows the case of a 45 years-old woman, with post postcoital bleeding and a high, tough, and hemorrhagic wound in the cervix, that was submitted to cytologic examination. The microscopic evaluation showed cells with characteristics associated with the coexistence of both squamous component – pleomorphic cells with dense cytoplasm and elevated nuclear/cytoplasm ratio, and glandular elements -feathering, pseudostratified strips of cells and elongated nuclei. It was reported a squamous cell carcinoma, not excluding adenosquamous carcinoma.

On the follow-up, a biopsy of the cervix was made, where the histological findings were in favor of an invasive mucinous adenocarcinoma with a squamous component. Differential diagnosis is made especially with “collision tumors”, where two primary neoplasms occur, glandular and squamous. Cytologic interpretation may be challenging in these kind of tumors, for the difficulty in understanding clearly the cytomorphological aspects of both glandular and squamous components.

Key-words: Adenosquamous carcinoma; Cervix; Cervical cytology.