Part 10A: Histopathology of nonsmall cell lung cancer



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This presentation is part of a comprehensive curriculum for Flexible Bronchoscopy. Our goals are to help health care workers become better at what they do, and to decrease the burden of procedure-related training on patients.

Classification of Lung Tumors

The most recent classification of the World Health Organization has gained wide acceptance. Several histological variant of each type of lung cancer are described. Major categories include :

Squamous cell carcinoma
Adenocarcinoma
Small cell carcinoma
Large cell carcinoma

25% to 40% 25% to 40% 20% to 25% 10% to 15%

The incidence of adenocarcinoma has increased significantly in the last two decade; it is now the most common form of lung cancer in women and, in many studies, men as well.

Squamous cell carcinoma

- Most commonly found in men and closely correlated with a smoking history.
- Histologically characterized by keratinization and/or intercellular bridges. Keratinization may take the form of squamous pearls or individual cells with eosinophilic dense cytoplasm.
- Features are prominent in well-differentiated tumors. Easily seen but not extensive in moderately differentiated tumors, and focally seen in poorly differentiated tumors.
- Mitotic activity is higher in poorly differentiated tumors.

Squamous cell carcinoma

Squamous metaplasia, epithelial dysplasia, and foci of frank carcinoma in situ may be seen in bronchial epithelium adjacent to the tumor mass.

In the past, most squamous cell carcinomas were seen to arise centrally from the segmental or subsegmental bronchi. However, the incidence of squamous cell carcinoma of the peripheral lung is increasing.

Squamous cell carcinoma often has gross necrosis on bronchoscopic examination



Photo, courtesy H. Colt

Photo, Hopital St. Marguerite, Marseille France

Squamous cell carcinoma Keratin pearls





Keratin pearls Hemotoxylin-Eosin stain

Squamous cell carcinoma keratinization



Keratinizing SCC Hemotoxylin –Eosin stain

Squamous cell carcinoma polygonal cells



polygonal cells with pink cytoplasm Hemotoxylin –Eosin stain

Squamous cell carcinoma hyperchromatic nuclei



Malignant cells with dense and hyperchromatic nuclei and scanty cytoplasm in Hematoxylin –Eosine stain

Squamous cell carcinoma polygonal cells, bridges, and hyperchromatic nuclei







SCC with : Nest of polygonal cells , pink cytoplasm and interacellular bridges . The nuclei are hyperchromatic and angular Hemotoxylin –Eosin stain

Squamous cell carcinoma mitoses



Mitosis in malignant cells Hematoxylin –Eosine stain

Squamous cell carcinoma with dysplasia





SCC dysplasia in metaplastic epithelium Hematoxylin –Eosine stain

High power view

Squamous cell carcinoma metaplasia and displasia



Surgpath images courtesy N. Narula, UCI Medical Center

Malignant cells in Dysplastic Epithelium Hemotoxylin-eosin stain

Squamous carcinoma in-situ



Malignant cells High power Hemotoxylin –Eosin stain

Adenocarcinoma

Malignant epithelial tumor with glandular differentiation or mucin production.

More common in women and nonsmokers.

- As compared to squamous cell carcinoma, lesions are often more peripherally located, and tend to be smaller.
- Adenocarcinoma tends to metastasize widely and earlier.
- Adenocarcinomas show various growth patterns:
 - Acinar, papillary, bronchioloalveolar, and solid with mucin formation.
 - Bronchioloalveolar pattern.

Adenocarcinoma Bronchoscopic appearances

Right upper lobe obstruction by smooth walled mass



Infiltrated right middle lobe carina



Adenocarcinoma Bronchoscopic appearances





Diffusely nodular form

Diffusely nodular form

Gross pathology : Cystic Mucinous Adenocarcinoma



Adenocarcinoma with glandular differentiation



Malignant cells Diff Quik

Adenocarcinoma Solid pattern



Hemotoxylin-Eosin stain

Adenocarcinoma mucin stain



Mucin Stain

Adenocarcinoma Acinar Pattern

High Power



Hemotoxylin-Eosin stain

Adenocarcinoma (Bronchioloalveolar Type)



Malignant cells growing along the alveolar septae Hemotoxylin-Eosin staining

Large cell carcinoma

Undifferentiated malignant epithelial tumor that lacks cytologic features of small cell carcinoma, and has no glandular or squamous differentiation.

Cells typically have large prominent nuclei, nucleoli and a moderate amount of cytoplasm.

Large Cell Tumor Fragments



Large Cell Carcinoma





Mitosis

Necrosis

Hematoxylin – Eosin stain

The Essential Bronchoscopist



MODULE 1

The Art of

Bronchoscopy

8 Basic

Principles

A new curriculum

Assured competency and proficiency



- Web-based Self-learning study guide.
 Computer-based simulations, didactic lectures, and image encyclopedia.
 Bronchoscopy step-by-step[©]: Practical exercise
- Bronchoscopy step-by-step[©]: Practical exercises, skills and tasks, competency testing.
 Guided apprenticeship.
 - Learning the art of Bronchoscopy.

1. The bronchoscope wants to do the bronchoscopy

2. Stay in the midline (Get off the wall).

3. Moderation in everything; slow down, think, act.

4. If you don't know where you are you probably shouldn't be there

5.

5. Force is wrong. Return to what you know; then move on and grow.

Slow down to finish faster.
 Treasure basic values: peace.

harmony and kindness

You and the bronchoscope are one

DEMOCRATIZATION AND GLOBALIZATION OF KNOWLEDGE



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