Abstract: Acinic cell carcinoma of the salivary glands is a rare cancer representing a low grade malignancy. The recurrence of a tumor is sometimes encountered, usually within 5 years of initial operation. We describe an unusual recurrence after a long interval following primary surgery. In 1987, a 60-year-old woman underwent excision of a mass in the superficial lobe of the right parotid gland under the preoperative diagnosis of a benign tumor. A histologic diagnosis of acinic cell carcinoma was made by examining sections from the resected mass. The patient noted several small nodules in the right parotid region in 1995, but she did not visit our clinic until 1998 when tenderness developed. A locally recurrent tumor and cervical lymph nodes containing metastases were resected and postoperative radiotherapy was given 11 years after the first operation. At least 10 years of follow-up may be necessary for patients with acinic cell carcinoma because of slow-tumor growth. J. Med. Invest. 46: 213-216 1999

Keywords: acinic cell carcinoma, parotid gland, recurrence
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Late recurrence of acinic cell carcinoma