

# Malignant sweat gland tumors: case reports and a review of literature

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## Introduction & Objectives:

**Malignant tumors arising from sweat glands are rare and the clinical picture is usually unspecific.** Although a recent article highlights some dermatoscopic features of adnexal tumors, the **diagnosis is made pathologically, and it could often be challenging** (Zaballos et al, 2018). Differential diagnoses among others include squamous cell carcinoma, basal cell carcinoma, Bowen's disease and pyogenic granuloma.

Sweat gland tumors are classically divided into tumors of eccrine and apocrine origin. However, it is sometimes impossible to accurately distinguish the cellular lineage of the tumor. Malignant adnexal tumors can arise *de novo*, as well as develop in preexisting benign lesions. **Treatment is usually surgical. Prognosis depends on the diagnostic entity and the presence of metastases** (Bernardez et al, 2017). The main objective of this report is to **raise the clinician's awareness of these rare but potentially life-threatening malignant tumors that could also cause significant morbidity, especially if they are located on the face.**

**Materials & Methods:** Two patients presenting with tumors on the facial skin underwent a surgical excision with tissue being sent for pathology with routine (eosin and hematoxylin) and immunohistochemical (CKAE1/AE3, p53, actin, S100, CD34, Ki-67) staining. Review of current literature has also been performed.

## Results:

An 86 year old female that developed a nodular tumor (2 cm in diameter) with surface erosions on the forehead. Pathology was consistent with a sweat gland adenocarcinoma. The tumor was treated with radiation therapy (Image Ia and Ib).

Male patient (79 years old) presented with a nodular tumor (1,5 cm diameter) in the right temple area with a central ulceration. The tumor had grown excessively during the last year from a long-standing lesion. It was excised, and the defect closed with a rotational flap. Histopathology was consistent with a low-grade porocarcinoma (Image II a and II b).



Image Ia and Ib



Image II a and II b

**Conclusion:** Malignant sweat gland tumors are rare and pose a diagnostic challenge clinically, dermatoscopically and pathologically.