The Milan System for Reporting Salivary Gland Cytopathology

A diagnostic role for FNA in the evaluation of salivary gland lesions is well established; however, there is currently no uniform reporting system for salivary gland cytology. This has resulted in problems on many levels for the diagnosis and management of these lesions. To address this important issue, an international group comprised of cytopathologists, surgical pathologists, and head and neck surgeons was formed to develop a classification scheme which is being called "The Milan System for Reporting Salivary Gland Cytopathology." The effort is being sponsored by the American Society of Cytopathology (ASC) and the International Academy of Cytology (IAC). The proposed reporting system is comprised of 5 diagnostic categories: Non-Diagnostic, Benign (non-neoplastic & neoplastic), Low Grade/Low Risk Neoplasm, Suspicious for Malignancy, and Malignant. Over the next year and a half, the committee will be working to develop and refine the Milan System, which will ultimately result in a published Atlas as well as online reference. A goal of the committee is to link the diagnostic categories of the Milan System to risks of malignancy (ROM) derived from the available published literature, as well as linking it to a clinical management algorithm. The results of salivary gland FNA are often used by clinicians to develop a management strategy that ranges from observation to simple excision to radical surgery and lymph node dissection. By developing and implementing this new international reporting system for salivary gland cytology, we hope to offer patients and clinicians a more accurate and reliable cytological classification of salivary gland lesions that maximizes the ability of clinicians to effectively manage these tumors.

The goals of this presentation are the following:
- Introduce the current proposal for the Milan System for Reporting Salivary Gland Cytopathology
- Review the 5 diagnostic categories of the Milan System
- Present results of the online survey
- Review ancillary tests, ROM, and clinical management as they relate to the diagnosis and reporting of salivary gland cytology
Selected References:


