Famous People with Head and Neck Diseases

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Dr. Barnes declares he has no conflicts of interest to disclose.

Famous People with Head and Neck Diseases

- Kaiser Friedrich III
- Ulysses S. Grant
- Grover Cleveland
- King Edward VIII
- Joseph Haydn
- Ludwig van Beethoven
- Thomas Edison
- William Rehnquist

George Washington

- 1732-1799
- Died at age 67
- Acute epiglottitis

Famous People with Head and Neck Diseases

Combination of my interest in history and experience in head and neck pathology responsible for my pursuit of famous people with diseases of the head and neck:

1. Risk factors or life styles that contributed to their disease
2. Impact of the disease on the individual or society in general
3. Treatment

George Washington

- Plantation owner
- Soldier
- Statesman
- President –2 terms 1789-1797
- “Father of his country”
- America’s first super hero
- Legend in his own time
George Washington

- 6 ft 2 in
- 200 lbs
- Age 43 Revolutionary War
- Age 57 First Term

(Gilbert Stewart -1796)

Thurs, Dec 12, 1799

- He chose this day to make rounds on his plantation, riding on horseback from 10 in the morning until 3 in the afternoon.

- Col. Tobias Lear stated on Washington's return home he noticed "That his neck appeared wet and that snow was hanging upon his hair."

WD: Thurs, Dec 12, 1799

"Morning cloudy, wind at northeast and mercury at 33. A large circle around the moon last night. About 10 o'clock it began to snow, soon after hail, and then a settled rain. Mercury at 28 at night."

George Washington

- Resisted third term as president
- Elected to return to Mt. Vernon with a profound sense of relief (age 65)

(1) French and Indian war (1754-1763)
(2) Revolutionary war (1775-1783)
(3) Presided over constitutional convention (1787)
(4) Two terms as president (1789-1797)

WD: Friday, Dec 13, 1799

"Morning snowing and about 3 inches deep, wind at northeast and mercury at 30. Continued snowing until 1 o'clock and at about 4 o'clock it became perfectly clear. Wind at same place, not hard. Mercury 28 at night."

Friday, Dec 13, 1799

- Despite not feeling well, Washington went out again in the cold weather to mark trees that were to be removed.

- Upon returning to the house, he had a "hoarseness which increased in the evening, but he made light of it."

- He spent the evening reading newspapers. When he retired for the night, Col. Lear suggested that he take something for his cold, but Washington replied "No, you know I never take anything for a cold. Let it go as it came."
Saturday, Dec 14, 1799

• 2-3:00 AM Suddenly awoke complaining of difficult breathing and a constricted, sore throat. Would not allow Mrs. Washington to summon help.

• Daybreak Col. Lear found Washington breathing with difficulty, hardly able to utter a word. A mixture of molasses, vinegar and butter was given which he could not swallow and during his attempt “he appeared to be distressed, convulsive, and almost suffocated.”

Saturday, Dec 14, 1799

Daybreak Rawlins was summoned to bleed Washington (250-500 ml), the first of 4 which eventually totaled about 2500 ml. There was no benefit. Washington complained that his throat was very sore. A piece of flannel dipped in ammonium carbonate was wrapped around his neck and his feet were bathed in warm water, all without benefit.

Saturday, Dec 14, 1799

10:00 AM Dr. James Craik, age 69 and a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, arrived. He immediately applied a “blister” to Washington’s neck, drew more blood, and prescribed vinegar and tea to be gargle. This caused Washington so much discomfort he nearly suffocated. Dr. Craik requested additional medical consultation.

3:00 PM Dr. Elisha Dick, age 37 and a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, arrived.

4:00 PM Dr. Gustavus Brown, age 52 and a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, arrived.

Saturday, Dec 14, 1799

Their diagnosis was “inflammatory quincy vs. cyanence trachealis”. Dr. Dick wanted to perform a tracheotomy but was overruled by the other two physicians. This suggestion was considered radical for 1799. It had only been performed 26 times over the last 180 years and never in America.

Saturday, Dec 14, 1799

4:00-8:00 PM He was bled for the 4th time. More “blisters” were applied to his arms and legs, all to no avail.

8:00 PM Washington uttered his last words “I die hard, but I am not afraid to go. I feel myself going. I thank you for your attention but I pray you take no more trouble about me. Let me go off quietly. I can not last long.”
Saturday, Dec. 14, 1799

10:00 PM  He died suddenly at the age of 67 of an illness of less than 48 hours duration and almost 3 years after completing his second term as president.

George Washington

Representative Henry Lee, a Revolutionary War comrade and father of Civil War General Robert E. Lee, eulogized Washington as “First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen.”

Thomas Jefferson wrote “His integrity was the most pure, his justice the most inflexible I have ever known. He was indeed, in every sense of the word, a wise, a good and a great man.”

Washington Mementos
Acute Epiglottitis (Acute Supraglottitis)

- Children and adults
- Most often due to Hemophilus influenza (type b) or Streptococcus pneumoniae.
- Sxs: sore throat, respiratory difficulty, dysphagia, change in voice, stridor, drooling, fever, and leukocytosis.
- May be associated with bacteremia.

Acute Epiglottitis

- Maintain airway—possible tracheotomy
- Intravenous antibiotics
- Oxygen
- Fluids
- ? Steroids
- Can be fatal
Born on May 6, 1856 in what is now the Czech Republic.

When he was very young, the family moved to Vienna where he lived most of his life. Forced to leave in 1938.

Awarded his MD degree in 1881 at the age of 25 and began work at the Vienna General Hospital.

In the 1880’s he and his colleague, Joseph Breuer, developed a “talking cure” for the treatment of mental disorders.

HIs life was marred by human tragedies and bad turns of fate. Daughter Sophie died at age 26 and one grandson at age 4.

He himself suffered for years under enormous death anxieties, which at times made it impossible for him to work.

Scientific isolation by more traditional physicians which resulted in his late appointment as a university professor at the age of 46.

He started smoking at the age of 24, averaging 20 cigars per day.

Repeatedly stated that smoking was the stimulant that enabled him to work as long and as hard as he did.

In February, 1923, at age of 67, Freud noticed an ulcerated growth on his right posterior hard palate which he kept to himself for several months.

He eventually sought medical attention and on biopsy it proved to be a SCC (‘my dear neoplasm’).

Over the next 16 years of his life he underwent 33 operative procedures including radium therapy, but kept smoking.
• He subsequently developed a fistula between his oral cavity and facial skin secondary to gangrenous tissue. The smell from the necrotic tissue was so unbearable that even his pet dog refused to go near him.

• A mosquito net had to be draped over Freud’s bed to keep flies away.

On Sept 21, 1939 Freud asked his personal physician, Dr. Max Schur, to relieve him of his pain and suffering.

Dr. Schur had already promised Freud in 1928 that he would not let him suffer unreasonably. He then administered 2 injections of 200 mgs of morphine within 12 hours. Freud slipped into a coma and died in London on September 23, 1939 at age 83.

Least common intraoral site for SCC in the US but most common site for salivary neoplasms.

Peak incidence 60-70 years; probably equal gender distribution.

Mass or ulcer is the most common presentation; may be painful and/or bleed.

Equal distribution between right, left and midline.
**SCC of Hard Palate**

- At time of diagnosis, about 50% of patients will have tumors localized to palate, 30% will have invasion of adjacent structures, and 15-30% will have positive cervical lymph nodes, 5% of which are bilateral.

- From hard palate, tumor may invade floor of maxillary sinus, nasal cavity, gingiva, soft palate and/or buccal mucosa. Distant metastases at diagnosis are uncommon.

**George Herman Ruth Jr.**

- 1895-1948
- Died at age 53
- Nasopharyngeal carcinoma

**Babe Ruth**

- Born February 6, 1895 in Baltimore.
- 1 of 8 children—6 died in infancy.
- Parents owned a bar, worked long hours and had little time for their children. Ruth became difficult to control.
- At age 7 was placed in St. Mary’s Industrial School, run by a Catholic order of missionaries.
Babe Ruth

- St Mary’s was not only a trade school but a reformatory and orphanage surrounded by walls similar to a prison with guards on duty.
- 800 children at St. Mary’s.
- Although religion was fundamental at St Mary’s, baseball ranked second.
- For the next 12 years Ruth and St Mary’s baseball team thrived.

In 1914, Ruth was sold to the Boston Red Sox (pitcher).
- In December 1919, sold to the New York Yankees for $125,000 and played right field for the club until 1934. Was regarded as the “Worst trade in baseball history.”
- In 1930-31, he received an annual salary of $80,000 ($1.1 million), then an all time high.

Babe Ruth

- Prior to Ruth’s arrival in New York, the Yankees had never won a pennant.
- With Ruth as part of their arsenal, the Yankees won 7 pennants and 4 world series from 1920-1933.

Babe Ruth

- His abilities were noticed by Jack Dunn, owner-manager of the then minor-league Baltimore Orioles and known for acquiring youngsters whom he thought had major league baseball potential. Signed contract in 1914 (19 years old).
- When Ruth appeared at the ballpark, some of the older players started cracking jokes and one sneered “Well here’s Jack’s newest babe.” The name “Babe” stuck. (George Herman Ruth Jr.)

Babe Ruth

- In 1927, hit 60 home runs in 154 games. Record broken 34 yrs later in 1961 by Roger Maris who hit 61. (In 1961 MLB went from 154 to 162 games per season.)
- Hit a total of 714 home runs over 22 seasons. Record broken 35 yrs later by Hank Aaron who hit 715 in 1974 (career high of 755-23 yrs). Record currently held by Barry Bonds who hit 73 in 2001 with a career high of 762 (22 yrs).
Babe Ruth

- Played his last season in 1935 with the Boston Braves.
- Concluded his baseball career in 1938 as a coach for the Brooklyn Dodgers.
- Irresponsible reputation prevented him from becoming a major league manager, which he greatly desired.

Babe Ruth

- In September, 1946 (age 51) he started to experience hoarseness and severe left retro-orbital pain.
- He was treated for sinusitis and eventually had 3 teeth extracted without relief.
- In November, 1946 he developed a left Horner’s syndrome, paralysis of the left palate and vocal cord and weakness of the shoulder.

Babe Ruth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boston Red Sox</td>
<td>(1914-1919)</td>
<td>6 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York Yankees</td>
<td>(1920-1934)</td>
<td>15 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston Braves</td>
<td>(1935)</td>
<td>1 yr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Babe Ruth

- X-ray studies revealed a skull base mass which extended from the foramen ovale to the jugular foramen.
- Biopsies were not diagnostic. X-ray therapy was given with some improvement.
- In December, 1946 a mass appeared in his left neck. Attempts to resect it resulted in ligation of his left ECA.

Babe Ruth

- He received more x-ray therapy. Spent 3 months in the hospital and lost about 80 lbs. (6 ft. 2 in., 215 lbs).
- Because of his smoking and drinking history, it was assumed that he had cancer of the larynx.
On April 27, 1947 a "Babe Ruth Day" was held at Yankee Stadium and every ballpark in the U.S. to honor him.

Standing before an admiring crowd, deep in pain and emaciated from advanced cancer, dressed in an overcoat and golf hat, he suffered a coughing spell and said in a raspy voice "You know how bad my voice sounds, well it feels just as bad."

His final appearance at Yankee Stadium was on June 13, 1948 during the 25th anniversary of the stadium.

During the celebration the Yankees retired his uniform, "ole number 3", and for that reason Ruth put on his uniform for the last time.

June 29, 1947 he began receiving a new experimental drug, teropterin, a folic acid antagonist.

There was a brief but temporary improvement in his condition.

His symptoms reappeared and he entered Memorial Hospital in 1948.

His health continued to decline. He developed lobar pneumonia in the right lung and died of metastatic carcinoma on August 16, 1948 at the age of 53.

An autopsy was performed at Memorial Hospital. Cause of death was "metastatic anaplastic carcinoma of the nasopharynx.”
The autopsy showed "an irregular area of thickening occupying the left lateral and posterior part of the nasopharynx. This area is approximately 2 cm in diameter. The tumor appears to surround the glossopharyngeal nerve, vagus nerve and spinal accessory nerve in the jugular foramen." (Dr. Marc Rosenblum; J. Paul Wozencraft; fellow MSKCC 1948-49; Univ Cincinnati for 26 yrs; died 1979)

- The cancer had spread to his left neck, lymph nodes, lungs, liver, and both adrenal glands.
- His larynx and hypopharynx were free of tumor.
- Microscopically the tumor consisted of small cells with oval and pleomorphic nuclei and scant granular cytoplasm. Isolated groups of cells contain keratin and give the appearance of abortive pearl formation.

For 2 days his body lay in state at the main entrance to Yankee Stadium.

He is buried in Hawthorne, New York next to his wife, Claire, who died in 1976.
Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma

- Distinctive geographic and ethnic distribution
- Relatively rare tumor worldwide
- 65,000 new cases per year
- 0.6% of all cancers

NPC - Etiology

3. Environment
   - A. Salted fish – nitrosamines
   - B. Cigarette smoking
   - C. Formaldehyde exposure
   - D. Occupational exposure to wood dust
   - E. Prior radiation

4. Viruses
   - A. EBV
   - B. HPV

5. Miscellaneous
   - A. Chronic rhinosinusitis

WHO (2005)

1. Keratinizing squamous cell carcinoma
2. Non-keratinizing carcinoma
   - A. Differentiated non-keratinizing carcinoma
   - B. Undifferentiated carcinoma
3. Basaloid squamous cell carcinoma

NPC - Etiology

1. Race
2. Genetics
   - A. HLA
   - B. Multiple chromosomal changes (loss of material short arm of C-3)
   - C. First degree relatives with NPC
NPC – Squamous Cell Carcinoma

- 25% of all NPCs in U.S.
- 15-25% positive for EBV
- 10-35% positive for HPV
- Variable response to X-ray
- 20-40% 5-year survival

NPC – Non-Keratinizing Carcinomas

- 75% of all NPCs in U.S.
- 50-100% positive for EBV
- 5-22% positive for HPV
- Good response to x-ray
- 65% 5-year survival

Conclusion

Giving up smoking is the easiest thing in the world. I know because I’ve done it thousands of times. (Mark Twain)