

This dissertation is dedicated

To

My wife,

Marie Chantal Mukaneza,

and

To my children.

DECLARATION

CANDIDATE

This dissertation is my original work and has not been presented for a degree, or other academic award, in any other University or institution of higher learning.

Signed

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my gratitude to all the following:

- PROFESSOR P.C. MODI, my Supervisor, Clinical and Academic Head for his guidance, support, and input throughout the preparation and execution of this study and for his invaluable criticism in the final preparation of this dissertation.
- Dr MARCO TORRES-HOLMES, my co-supervisor, for his guidance and invaluable criticism during the execution of this study.
- All the members of the Academic Peer Review Committee of the Department of Neurosciences for their guidance and valuable criticisms.
- The Nursing and Clerical Staff of the:
 - ENT Operating Theatre
 - ENT Ward
 - National Health Laboratory Services

At the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital, the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital; and at the Helen Joseph Hospital for their support in assisting with the sourcing of all the relevant data.

- **My wife Marie Chantal and children for their patience, encouragement and deep understanding throughout the process of this study.**

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SUMMARY

Background: Parotid tumours constitute a highly heterogeneous group. The pattern of parotid tumours in South Africa has not been extensively reported.

Purpose: The aim of this study was to describe and analyse the clinical presentation and the histopathology of the parotid tumours in the Division of Otorhinolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery at the academic hospitals of the University of Witwatersrand.

Methods: We retrospectively reviewed the medical records of 71 patients who underwent parotid surgery for parotid tumours from January 2006 to December 2010. Data including age, gender, clinical signs, symptoms and histological findings were collected.

Results: Of the 71 patients, 46 (64.78%) had benign tumours and 25 (35.22%) had malignant tumours. The most common benign tumour was pleomorphic adenoma (76.09%) and the most common malignant tumour was mucoepidermoid carcinoma (52%). The clinical findings did carry a significant importance in the malignant-benign differentiation especially the presence of pain ($p=0.002$) and facial weakness ($p=0.003$).

Conclusion: Pleomorphic adenoma was the commonest benign parotid tumour and mucoepidermoid carcinoma was the most malignant tumour. The malignant-benign ratio was comparable to other African series. The presenting symptoms of pain and facial weakness were found to be strong indicators of malignant disease.