RE: Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma of the lacrimal gland

Dear Colleagues and friends,

I would like to propose a new project on adenoid cystic carcinoma of the lacrimal gland for the Rare Cancer Network study group, which I hope will interest you.

Adenoid cystic carcinoma (ACC) of the lacrimal gland is a relative uncommon entity. ACC is the most frequent epithelial tumor of the lacrimal gland. It represents 1.6% of the orbital tumors. Historically, surgical resection has been the primary mode of treatment. Some studies have shown a benefit in both local-regional control and survival when combined modality therapy (surgery and irradiation) have been employed for advanced stage disease, unresectable disease, or recurrent disease, and in patients with microscopic residual disease after surgical resection.

ACC has a lengthy clinical course and often, late local recurrences after surgical resection. This is accounted histologically by its infiltrative capacity and distinct propensity for perineural invasion.

Postoperative radiotherapy may be the treatment of choice to control residual lesions and provide long-term survival even in the case of incomplete resection. Despite extensive surgery and radiation therapy, the prognosis of these tumors remains extremely poor.

ACC originating in the lacrimal gland usually spreads to the intracranial space by following cranial nerves into the cavernous sinus, temporal bone and cerebropontine angle.

There are few series on the literature who report long survivors, and who tell us about the prognosis for patients with ACC of the lacrimal gland, particularly in relation to how they are treated.

It will be interesting, as in other studies inside the Rare Cancer Network, to examine the various prognostic factors, disease outcome and the role of the different treatments.
Enclose with this letter is a reply form. Would you be so kind as to complete it and return it to me by post (to the above address), by fax (Fax: +41 56 310 3515) or by email (carmen.ares@psi.ch), by November 15, 2006, to indicate your interest in participating.

Looking forward to work with your collaboration,

Yours sincerely,

Carmen Ares, M.D.
A Rare Cancer Network study:

ADENOID CYSTIC CARCINOMA OF THE LACRIMAL GLAND (C. Ares) – October 2006

Eligibility criteria:
» Biopsy-proven adenoid cystic carcinoma of the lacrimal gland (ICD-0 C69.5).
» Any stage according TNM classification of malignant tumors.
» Minimal follow-up of 6 months.

Please return this form by regular mail, fax or e-mail to:

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Name: ____________________________________________________________
Institution: __________________________________________________________
Country: ____________________________________________________________
Fax: __________________________________________________________________
Email: __________________________________________________________________

Please specify:
I am interested in participating in this retrospective analysis and the number of cases for which I will be able to provide information is: ________________________________