It’s worse than it looks: Feline conjunctival surface adenocarcinoma

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With thanks to:
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and all who contributed images
Clinical history / Presentation

- 18 yo FN black DSH “barn cat”
- 5 month history of prominent left third eyelid
- Unresponsive to short course topical TAO
- Prior history of cryptococcosis 4yrs ago
Clinical findings

- Third eyelid thickened and hyperemic OS – friable, red, frond-like tissue on bulbar aspect
- Superior bulbar and palpebral conjunctiva hyperemic with focal, red nodule
- No eyelid, oral or nasal cavity disease evident
- Left retropharyngeal LN firm / nodular
Left retropharyngeal LN FNA

Interpretation: metastatic carcinoma

Images courtesy of Julie Webb
Biopsy – Third eyelid mass

Images courtesy of Marie Pinkerton
Histopathology – conjunctival mass
Histopathology

10x
Histopathology

20x

40x
So what does this mean?

Feline conjunctival surface adenocarcinoma

- “The neoplasm formally known as conjunctival mucoepidermoid carcinoma”
COPLOW cases

Feline Conjunctival Tumors (n=319)

- Other: 10
- Mucoepidermoid Carcinoma: 13
- Hemangioma: 14
- Hemangiosarcoma: 16
- Tumor of the 3rd Eyelid Gland: 26
- Melanoma: 50
- Squamous Cell Carcinoma: 190

Taken from RRD presentation
KSU 2012
Where does it come from?

Appears to arise *de novo* from conjunctival epithelium

May be hard to rule out third eyelid gland as tissue of origin in some cases

“we will know more in the future” (C. Naranjo)
Where does it go?

Appearances can be deceptive
- local lymph nodes
- parotid region
- lungs
Summary

Conjunctival surface adenocarcinoma
- a.k.a. conjunctival mucoepidermoid carcinoma
- Neoplasm of conjunctival epithelium in cats
- Papillary to tubuloacininar morphology
- Invasive features
- Potential for regional and distant metastasis