



Fig. 3. Histological findings of the tumor (hematoxylin and eosin staining, $\times 100$). The surface tissue is the stratified flattened epithelium, but the inside tissue is of the hepatocellular carcinoma with sinusoidal patterned cells. Immunohistochemical staining of alpha-fetoprotein was negative, but that of carcinoembryonic antigen was positive.

In patients with tonsillar metastases, the lesions are mostly unilateral, but several papers reported bilateral occurrences (Draizin et al., 1978; Kadowaki and Ikoma, 1990).

The metastases usually appear within 1 year after the occurrence of the primary tumor. In some uncommon cases, however, lesions occurring before the existence of a primary tumor has been noted, which allows for the definite diagnosis of the primary tumor (Fernández Aceñero et al., 1996). Similarly, both the present patient and the patient in San Carlos University Hospital (Llanes et al., 1996) were diagnosed as HCC due on the metastasis to the unilateral palatine tonsil.

The common symptoms of metastatic tumors of the tonsil are pharyngeal discomfort, pain and bleeding. Because the symptoms are weak in most cases, the metastases are generally found in the advanced stage. Furthermore, they are usually a late event in the progression of HCC, so that prognosis is generally poor once its metastatic lesion is found. Kanazawa and Sato (1989) explained that the mean surviv-

al rate after the appearance of oral metastases was 21 weeks, ranging from 2 weeks to 2 years. The patient in San Carlos University Hospital died 8 months after the diagnosis of tonsillar metastasis.

Major treatment is resection of the tumor by palatine tonsillectomy. The operation is very useful for prevention of such complications as pharyngeal pain, dyspnea, dysphagia and severe bleeding (Hando et al., 1995; Yamauchi et

Table 1. The primary sites for tonsillar metastases reported in Japan

Primary site	Number of patients
Pulmonary cancer	24
Gastric cancer	8
Liver cancer	8*
Colon cancer	3
Malignant melanoma	3
Choriocarcinoma	3
Renal cancer	2
Breast cancer	2
Others	4

*Including the present patient.

al., 1995). And we should always respect the patients' quality of life during treatment because of the poor prognosis.

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