

## Squamous cell carcinoma of a white tiger

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Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC) is considered to be the second most common form of skin cancer arising in the squamous cells that compose most of the upper layer of the skin. The most common locations are the hairless area of the nose, the eyelids, and ears. Sun exposure increases the risk of developing SCC. A case of Squamous Cell Carcinoma in eye attached to lower eyelid of a white tiger has been recorded and discussed along with histopathological descriptions.

### Materials and Methods

In the present case a female white tiger aged about 19 years weighing about 800-900kgs belonging to Bannerghatta Biological Park showed a small speck like lesion on lower left eyelid which progressed to large mass in a span of 2 weeks measuring about 3-4 cms occluding the vision of the animal. The lesion also deteriorated due to constant rubbing of the eye to the wall by the tigress. So the mass was surgically removed under general anaesthesia and it was collected in 10% buffered formalin for Histopathological examination. The tissue sample was processed for routine haematoxylin and eosin staining as per standard protocol of Luna (1968).

### Results and Discussion

The cytological examination of impression smears from the lesion and culture examination did not reveal any fungal organisms. On histopathological examination, the sections were densely cellular and composed of prominent sheets of small round cells with vascularisation, hyperchromatism,



**Squamous Cell Carcinoma in eye of a white tiger**

pleomorphism and increased nuclear cytoplasmic ratio with premature keratinisation and formation of spheroidal masses or whorled pattern (Keratin pearls). Mitosis was typically increased and abnormal in appearance. Stroma showed numerous congested capillaries with thickened capillary wall. The overall picture was suggestive of Squamous cell carcinoma. Squamous cell carcinoma accounts for 15% of all feline skin tumors (Marretta *et al.*, 2007). These tumours usually involve light or unpigmented skin. Four months after performing the surgical excision, no sign of any tumour recurrence or metastasis was observed.

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### References

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