Interesting Cases in Prostate Pathology

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### "Interesting Is a Non-Word. Be Specific."

by mollyrookwood / 25 May 2021



"Interesting" is a lazy word.







Cowper's Glands



#### Malakoplakia

### Benign Mimics of Prostate Carcinoma

Normal anatomy	Hyperplasia
Seminal vesicles Cowper's glands Paraganglia	Basal cell hyperplasia Verumontanum gland hyperplasia Clear cell cribriform hyperplasia
Atrophy	Metaplasia
Simple Partial atrophy Postatrophic hyperplasia	Nephrogenic metaplasia Mucinous metaplasia
Benign proliferations	Inflammatory process
Adenosis (AAH) Sclerosing adenosis	Chronic inflammation Granulomatous prostatitis Malakoplakia





#### Atypical glands adjacent to a focus of high-grade PIN





#### Atypical Focus: Low Grade Carcinoma Vs High grade PIN







#### Post Radiation Carcinoma





Mucinous Fibroplasia







### Ductal Carcinoma

- Frequently admixed with acinar
- WHO classification:
  - RP cases with >50% ductal morphology
  - Needle biopsies: Adenocarcinoma with ductal features
- More aggressive that acinar
- Distinct entity
- Prognosis similar to Gleason pattern 4
- Solid pattern with necrosis: grade as pattern 5
- PIN-like pattern: grade as pattern 3

# Differential Diagnosis

- High grade prostatic intraepithelial neoplasia
- Atypical intraductal proliferation
- Intraductal Carcinoma
- Ductal Carcinoma
- Invasive cribriform pattern of Pca
- PIN-like carcinoma
- Intraductal Urothelial Carcinoma



#### High Grade PIN

#### High Grade Prostatic Intraepithelial Neoplasia

#### • WHO 2022

- Micropapillary, flat, tufted
- Cribriform subtype
  - No longer considered HGPIN
  - Classify as IDC/AIP

# Atypical Intraductal Proliferation

- Intraductal neoplastic proliferations fall short of either the architectural or cytological atypia required for a diagnosis of IDC-P but have more atypia than that usually seen in HGPIN.
- Suggests the presence of high-grade invasive carcinoma





# Intraductal Carcinoma

- *Neoplastic* epithelial proliferation involving preexisting, generally expanded, ductacinar structures and characterized by architectural and cytological atypia beyond what is acceptable for HGPIN
  - Colonization of existing ducts by invasive ca (retrograde spread)- majority
  - Precursor lesion (rare)
- Associated with high-grade prostate ca on RP
- With acinar ca: adverse prognostic factor
- Association with germline BRCA2 (and other HRD mutations): controversial
- Do not grade pure IDC
- Pure IDC on biopsy: definitive treatment recommended

# Intraductal Carcinoma

- Patterns
  - Solid
  - Dense cribriform
  - Loose cribriform/micropapillary with marked nuclear atypia or comedonecrosis
- Nuclear size (6x) not required

Essential criteria	<ul> <li>Expansile epithelial proliferation in the preexisting duct-acinar system</li> <li>Lumen-spanning solid, cribriform, and/or cribriform patterns</li> <li>Loose cribriform or micropapillary patterns with enlarged nuclei</li> <li>Residual basal cells</li> </ul>
Desirable criterion	<ul> <li>Immunohistochemistry demonstrating at least partial basal cell retention</li> </ul>

# Grading of Intraductal Carcinoma

#### • To do (include) or not to do?

ISUP	GUPS	
Include	Exclude	
IDC: prognostic factor	Subset of IDC: precursor lesion	
Score captures prognostic value	Rare change in GS	
ILLC only if impact on CC		

#### IHC only if impact on GG



### PIN Like Ca: Subtype of Acinar



#### Invasive Cribriform: Gleason Pattern 4



#### Cribriform mimic: back-to-back glands

### Invasive Cribriform Pattern

- A confluent sheet of contiguous malignant epithelial cells with multiple glandular lumina that are easily visible at low power (objective magnification x10)
- No intervening stroma or mucin separating individual or fused glandular structures.
- Invasive cribriform ca
  - Predictive of biochemical recurrence and Pca specific mortality

### Intraductal Urothelial Carcinoma



Am J Surg Pathol 2016;40:e67–e82





Small Cell Carcinoma

# Small Cell Carcinoma

- 40-50%: History of prostate ca
- Pure SCC: 50-60% at diagnosis
- Visceral metastasis, paraneoplastic syndrome
- Morphological diagnosis
- NE markers: 90%
- Prostate markers: 17-25%
- TTF-1: 50%

*Am J Surg Pathol. 2014; 38(6): 756–767 Arch Pathol Lab Med. 2020;144:320–325* 

# Small Cell Ca

- D/D: Small cell carcinoma of other sites.
- ERG by FISH or other molecular testing.
- IHC not reliable in this scenario.
- Prostate small cell carcinoma.
  - AR, PSA, membranous CD44 +

*Am J Surg Pathol. 2014; 38(6): 756–767 Arch Pathol Lab Med. 2020;144:320–325* 

## Neuroendocrine Cells in Prostate

- Scattered between epithelial cells, resting on the basal cells
- Variety of peptide hormones: endocrine, paracrine and autocrine effect
- Not readily recognizable on H&E
- Lack AR
- NE differentiation increases after ADT and in CRPC
- Lineage plasticity

### Transdifferentiation of Prostate Ca

- Epigenetic factors
- AR indifferent state
- Overexpression of epigenetic regulators

### Neuroendocrine Tumors of Prostate

- De novo (rare) <1%
- After Androgen deprivation therapy (ADT) ~15%

- Prostate Ca: Androgen dependent
- Androgen blockade
- Therapeutic resistance
- Continued AR signaling through alternate mechanisms

- Treatment related NE Pca
- Low/absent AR expression
- Small cell/NE morphology
- Visceral/lytic bone metastases

# Treatment Related NE Prostate Ca

- Tumors with complete or partial NE differentiation after ADT
- 10-15% of CRPC, usually within 24 months of ADT, median survival ~7 months
- Small cell and large cell NE Ca
  - Primary or secondary
  - Mixed with conventional acinar Ca
  - Small cell component- not to be graded
  - Small cell: p53 and TTF-1 positive in 50%, few AR+, PSA, PSAP are negative

# WHO Classification

#### 2004

- Focal NE differentiation in conventional Pca
- Carcinoid Tumor: Rare
- Small cell NE Ca

#### 2014

- Usual Adenocarcinoma with NE differentiation
- AdenoCarcinoma with Paneth cell-like features
- Carcinoid Tumor
- Small cell Carcinoma
- Large Cell Carcinoma

#### Usual Adenocarcinoma with NE Differentiation

• Acinar or ductal Prostate Ca with NE differentiation by IHC: IHC evaluation not recommended



#### Adenocarcinoma with Paneth Cell Like NE Differentiation

# Adenocarcinoma with Paneth Cell Like NE Differentiation

- Pca with prominent NE granules (Paneth cell-like)
- Resemble intestinal NE cell with prominent granules
- Not true Paneth cells
- NE marker +/ Lysozyme –
- Good prognosis
- Outcomes related to conventional prognostic features
- Do not upgrade single cell pattern of Paneth cells

Am. J. Surg. Pathol. 2006; 30; 980–985, Hum. Pathol. 2014;45; 2388–2393, Hum. Pathol. 2020; 102; 7–12.

# Mixed NE and Acinar Ca

- Biphasic: distinct conventional and NE components
- Adeno Ca: ductal/other variants
- Metastatic CRPC
- Cases with overlapping morphology and IHC profile



Prostate Carcinoma: neuroendocrine carcinoma



Large Cell Carcinoma

# Large Cell NE Ca

- Neuroendocrine differentiation
- Large nests with peripheral palisading and geographic necrosis
- Rare
- NE markers +. PSA/PSAP: negative/focal

Am J Surg Pathol. 2014; 38(6): 756–767

# Carcinoid Tumor

- In prostate parenchyma (not urethra/bladder)
- Not closely associated with adenocarcinoma
- Positive for NE markers and negative for PSA
- Locally advanced disease
- Favorable prognosis
- Grade like GI carcinoids
- Investigate for MEN syndrome

### Neuroendocrine Differentiation Primary Vs Metastatic (N=79)

Category	Primary	Metastatic
Pure small-cell carcinoma / HGNEC	3/23	20/23
Combined adenocarcinoma + small-cell carcinoma / HGNEC	9/10	1/10
PCa with diffuse neuroendocrine differentiation	0/15	15/15
PCa with patchy neuroendocrine differentiation	5/11	6/11
PCa with isolated neuroendocrine marker positive cells	4/9	5/9
PCa with prominent neuroendocrine granules ('Paneth cell-like')	11/11	0/11
Total	32	47

HGNEC, high-grade neuroendocrine carcinoma; PCa, prostate cancer.

Histopathology 2022, 81, 246–254.











#### Benign Stromal Hyperplasia

#### Prostate Stromal Lesions: Differential Diagnosis

- Benign stromal hyperplasia
- Prostate stromal tumor of uncertain malignant potential (STUMP)
- Stomal sarcoma
- Other mesenchymal lesions
  - Gastrointestinal stromal tumor
  - Solitary fibrous tumor
  - Inflammatory myofibroblastic tumors
  - Smooth muscle tumors
  - Sarcomatoid carcinoma



### Benign Prostatic Stromal Hyperplasia



Benign Prostatic Stromal Hyperplasia

### STUMP

#### • Rare

- Median age: 57.5 y (25-68)
- Patterns
  - Hypercellular cells with scattered atypical cells admixed with benign glands
  - Hypercellular with bland spindle cells admixed with benign glands
  - Phyllodes pattern
  - Myxoid pattern
  - Epithelioid pattern
- Absence of nodularity and thick-walled vessels







#### Stromal Sarcoma

- Marked hypercellularity
- Nuclear pleomorphism
- Necrosis
- Increased mitosis, atypical

WHO Classification of Tumors of the Urinary System and Male Genital Organs, 2022





### Solitary Fibrous Tumor

#### Prostate Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor







### Metastatic Yolk Sac Tumor



Metastatic Melanoma





#### Anal Intraepithelial Neoplasia



Signet ring-like cells in Prostate Carcinoma

### Secondary Tumors

- Mean age 64 y
- Urothelial carcinoma
- Hematologic malignancies
- Presentation: like Pca
- Potential of misdiagnosis

**TABLE 3.** Summary of Tumor Types Among Metastatic Cases (N = 40)

Type of tumor	No. Cases (%)	
Lung carcinomas	9 (22.5)	
Colonic/rectal adenocarcinomas	7 (17.5)	
Melanoma	6 (15)	
Germ cell tumors	6 (15)	
Pancreatobiliary adenocarcinoma	2 (5)	
Renal cell carcinoma	2 (5)	
Appendiceal adenocarcinoma	1 (2.5)	
Appendiceal goblet cell adenocarcinoma	1 (2.5)	
Esophageal adenocarcinoma	1 (2.5)	
Gastric adenocarcinoma	1 (2.5)	
Breast carcinoma	1 (2.5)	
Merkel cell carcinoma	1 (2.5)	
Squamous cell carcinoma	1 (2.5)	
Well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumor (small bowel)	1 (2.5)	

Type of spread	
Direct extension	36 (42)
Metastatic	40 (47)
Unclear/uncertain	9 (11)

