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**The Tubarial Salivary Glands**

The presence of previously unnoticed bilateral macroscopic salivary glands shocked the scientific world. (Valstar et al.,2020). There are three major salivary glands in the human body, parotid, submandibular, and sublingual salivary glands, and many minor salivary glands as well. These new salivary glands found are in the human nasopharynx and were spotted after visualization by positron emission tomography/computed tomography with prostate-specific membrane antigen ligands (PSMA PET/CT). After conducting the study utilizing 100 patients, the experiment demonstrated a demarcated bilateral PSMA-positive area on PSMA PET/CT and, based on its predominant location over the torus tuberous; named the new glands "tubarial glands (Valstar et al.,2020). The proposed name for tubarial glands is based on their anatomical location, in coherence with the naming strategy for the other macroscopic salivary glands (parotid, submandibular, sublingual). This name also prevents confusion with the microscopic tubal glands lining the auditory tube. Several factors explain why these glands have not been previously noticed as macroscopic gland locations. The occurrence of acinar cell groups in the nasopharynx has been reported, but in a spread-out pattern in a large region instead of localized tissue in an organized clustered glandular structure. The newly detected tubarial glands involve flat submucosal glandular structures at a poorly accessible anatomical location under the skull base, an area that can only be visualized using nasal endoscopy. However, the biggest question is how these new glands will be classified. I consider it a minor salivary gland because it is macroscopic glandular tissue, but it must be marked as an essential salivary gland. Also, many argued that the tubarial glands should not be classified as separate organs or as minor or major salivary glands and can better be interpreted as macroscopic parts of the composite salivary gland organ system. Therefore, they require a name that allows unique identification in daily clinical practice.

The tubarial Salivary glands have not been discovered until now. Researchers did not use PSMA PET/CT to look for salivary glands; these new glands are in a place that's hard to access with regular surgical procedures. The only way to see these glands is with nasal endoscopy. In my opinion, it will be beneficial for developing new ways to treat some oral issues. The discovery of these new glands furthers our understanding of functional issues with saliva and mucus production in the back of the nose. It may also allow us to target therapy to these areas during surgical or medical treatments. Furthermore, one of the most problematic quality-of-life side effects for patients who have been through radiation to the head and neck is losing the function of their major salivary glands. They end up with problems related to saliva production, dry mouth, dry throat, difficulty swallowing and eating, or difficulty with speech. Salivary cancer is sporadic, but these findings might also help us understand some of its nuances, the origins of these tumors, and how to best treat them. One of the most common complaints and concerns patients share with their otolaryngologists has to do with postnasal drip. Many people experience it, but beyond ruling out things like an infection or sinus issues, we often cannot identify the cause. So, perhaps this finding could help us better understand this problem.

In conclusion, these findings support the identification of the tubarial glands as a new anatomical and functional entity, representing a part of the salivary gland system. It remains to be seen if the glands are classified as minor or major salivary glands but discovering a new body structure certainly sparks scientific interest.

Reference

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