Salivary gland

There are major and minor salivary glands that aid in the digestive process. Major glands are discrete and exist in predictable locations; minor salivary glands are more widespread and usually found dispersed in the mucosa of the mouth. Glands have their own contractile abilities, which allow them to secrete products without the assistance of vasculature or skeletal, or smooth muscle. This study will describe a cadaveric histological specimen in which an ectopic buccal gland was embedded within bucinator muscle fibers. Potential causes and explanations for this finding will be discussed, as well [1)]

see Salivary gland-like tumors of the sellar region.

Intracranial ectopic salivary gland rests within dural-based lesions are reported very infrequently in the literature.

Shammassian et al., report the unique case of a 12-year-old boy with a cerebellar medulloblastoma positive for sonic hedgehog (Shh) that contained intraaxial mature ectopic salivary gland rests. The patient underwent clinical and radiological monitoring postoperatively, until he died of disseminated disease. An autopsy showed no evidence of salivary glands within disseminated lesions. The intraaxial presence of salivary gland rests and concomitant Shh positivity of the described tumor point to a disorder in differentiation as opposed to ectopic developmental foci, which are uniformly dural based in the described literature. The authors demonstrate the characteristic “papilionaceous” appearance of the salivary glands with mucicarmine stain and highlight the role of Shh signaling in explaining the intraaxial presence of seromucous gland analogs. This article reports the first intraaxial posterior fossa tumor with heterotopic salivary gland rests, and it provides molecular and embryopathological insights into the development of these lesions [2)].

1)
Lesser ER, Chaiyamoon A, Tubbs RS, Iwanaga J. Buccal gland within the bucinator muscle. Anat Cell Biol. 2024 Jan 18. doi: 10.5115/acb.23.223. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38233065.
2)
Shammassian B, Manjila S, Cox E, Onwuzulike K, Wang D, Rodgers M, Stearns D, Selman WR. Mature salivary gland rests within sonic hedgehog-positive medulloblastoma: case report and insights into the molecular genetics and embryopathology of ectopic intracranial salivary gland analogs. J Neurosurg Pediatr. 2016 Dec;25(6):708-712. PubMed PMID: 27635979.