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Mucin-rich vs. Mucin-poor Endocrine Mucin-Producing Sweat Gland Carcinoma: A Comparison of Two Cases

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Endocrine mucin-producing sweat gland carcinoma (EMPSGC) is a low grade relatively rare carcinoma with a predilection for eyelids. The neoplasm was first described by Flieder et al. in 1997 as a distinct in situ and invasive cutaneous adnexal tumor, sharing many histological features with solid papillary carcinoma of the breast. While intracytoplasmic and extracellular mucin is typically prominently seen, a minority of cases demonstrate poor to absent mucin production. In all cases, expression of at least one neuroendocrine marker, synaptophysin or chromogranin, is required. In addition, the presence of estrogen and/or progesterone receptors as well as cytokeratin 7 are typically found. The presence of these markers together with the usual histologic architectural features allows the diagnosis of EMPSGC even in the absence of mucin. We describe the occurrence of an EMPSGC in two patients, contrast the variable finding regarding mucin production, and discuss other pertinent features of the neoplasm both required and helpful for diagnosis.