NEURAL TUMOURS OF ORAL AND PARAORAL REGION.

Library Dissertation submitted

to

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The nervous system consists of two principal types of cells i.e., the nerve cells and their supporting cells. The structural and functional unit of the nervous system is the nerve cell or neuron, which possesses delicate cytoplasmic processes called the nerve fibres. Neuroglial cells of central nervous system, the schwann cells and the satellite cells of ganglia of the peripheral nervous system are the supporting cells **(Ross & Reith, 1985)**.

The peripheral nerve consists of nerve fibres and their supporting schwann cells. It is surrounded by connective tissue sheaths of decreasing order of magnitude. Endoneurium, which is comprised of delicate collagen fibres, is an inner most connective tissue layer with a relatively sparse population of fibroblasts. With the exception of mast cells, usually no other connective tissue cells are present. Surrounding the nerve bundle/fascicle is a cellular sheath, the perineurium. It may be one or more cell layer thick, and the cells are usually squamous in shape exhibiting a basal lamina. Typical fibroblasts are not seen. The last component associated with the structural organisation of a nerve is the epineurium. It is a dense connective tissue which carries the blood vessels that serve the nerve **(Ross & Reith, 1985)**.

Tumours of neural tissue arise in connection with the sheath of peripheral nerves, the neuroglia and the immature nerve cells themselves **(Lucas R B, 1984).** The neoplasms of neurogenic origin arise from the cells of neuroectodermal origin **(Thomas, 1970)**.

The majority of tumours in the peripheral nervous system are derived from schwann cells and their peripheral nerve elements. They arise mainly from cranial and spinal nerves and their roots, but similar tumours also occur in the