

PROGNOSTIC FACTORS OF STAGE IV NASOPHARYNGEAL CANCER

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Purpose : To evaluate the results and prognostic factors of Stage IV nasopharyngeal cancer.

Methods and Materials : From April 1991 to June 1995, 89 patients with T1-4 N2-3M0 nasopharyngeal cancer treated at the Veteran General Hospital-Kaohsiung were evaluated. All these patients had received definitive radiotherapy to a median dose of 7200 cGy (range from 6800 to 7670 cGy). The failure patterns according to different T and N stages were evaluated. The possible prognostic factors were analysed by univariate analysis first, then those have significant p values were further evaluated by multivariate analysis.

Results : The survival rate, local failure free survival and disease-free survival at 5 years were 43.7%, 44.6% and 40.3%, respectively. The factors including T stage, characteristics of T4 invasion, total treatment time, lymph node response rate, T and N grouping, sex and platelet counts all showed statistically significance by univariate analysis. The multivariate analysis revealed both the characteristics of T4 invasion and T/N grouping are significant to the overall survival and local failure free survival, respectively.

Conclusion : This study disclosed that the patients with Stage IV nasopharyngeal cancer have different prognosis according to different factors. In the future, we might design treatment policies according to different prognostic factors in an attempt to improve the treatment results.

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Key words : Nasopharyngeal cancer, Radiotherapy, Prognostic factor