

Radiotherapy for Classic Kaposi's Sarcoma and Epidemic Kaposi's Sarcoma

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the effects of local control and symptom relief of radiotherapy in treating classic and epidemic Kaposi's sarcoma (KS). The application of radiation therapy technique is also discussed. From January 1993 to April 2005, 20 patients with biopsy-proved KS and radiotherapy were enrolled in this study. Among them, 10 cases with 22 lesions were classic KS. The other 12 cases with 22 lesions were epidemic KS caused by acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). The design of radiotherapy was determined according to the clinical presentation individually. Water tank or tissue-equivalent bolus was used in some cases to facilitate the effect of radiotherapy. In patients with classic KS, 20 lesions were treated with 30 to 60Gy (average 36.8Gy). The complete response (CR) rate was 77.2% and partial response (PR) rate was 22.3%. In patients with AIDS-related KS, 20 lesions were treated with 8 to 40Gy (average 29.17Gy). The CR rate was 64% and the PR rate was 36%. Due to the advancement of radiotherapy technique and material, radiotherapy is a convenient and effective treatment for KS.

Keyword : Classic Kaposi's sarcoma, Epidemic Kaposi's Sarcoma, Radiotherapy, Response rate