

Original Article

Carcinoma in the Pharynx: Nasopharynx, Oropharynx and Hypopharynx

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Abstract.

Objectives: Head and neck cancers consist of a diverse group of malignancies that range from face, lip, salivary glands and sinuses to oral cavity, pharynx, larynx. The pharynx is the continuation of the nose and mouth. It is a muscular tube that continues downwards through the neck and is responsible for the passage of both air (to the larynx, trachea and lungs) and food (to the esophagus and then stomach).

Methods: The pharynx is divided into three different areas based on anatomical location: nasopharynx (behind the nose), oropharynx (behind the mouth), and hypopharynx (behind the larynx). We also reviewed several studies of cancer in pharynx and compared their results with our own clinical data in these papers.

Results: In the data of the head and neck team in Taipei Mackay Memorial Hospital, the 3-year overall survival rates for carcinoma of nasopharynx with concurrent chemoradiation (CCRT) were 100% in stage I, 83% in stage II, 87.8% in stage III, 65.9% in stage IV and 80.7% in all stages. The 2-year overall survival rate for oropharyngeal carcinoma were 69.52% with treatment policy of preferred CCRT. The 2-year overall and disease free survival rates for hypopharyngeal carcinoma were, respectively 43.8% and 49.4% for the CCRT group, 49.4% and 50.0% for the operation plus CCRT group.

Conclusions: Cancers of the head and neck are often considered together because they share many similarities in incidence, cancer type, predisposing factors, pathological features. However, the treatments and prognoses of these three pharyngeal malignancies are quite different.

Keywords : cancer, nasopharynx, oropharynx, hypopharynx

原著論文

咽部的癌症：鼻咽癌，口咽癌及下咽癌

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