

COMPARISON OF CLINICAL OUTCOME IN HYPOPHARYNGEAL CANCER TREATED WITH RADIOTHERAPY ALONE OR SURGERY COMBINED WITH ADJUVANT RADIOTHERAPY - 10 YEARS, EXPERIENCE IN MACKAY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

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Purpose: To evaluate treatment results and analyze pathological prognostic factors in surgery plus postoperative radiotherapy and radiotherapy alone for hypopharyngeal cancer.

Materials and Methods: This retrospective analysis is based on the clinical outcome of 81 patients with hypopharyngeal cancer treated with surgery plus adjuvant radiotherapy and radiotherapy alone from January 1987 to December 1997. There were 79 males and 2 females, between 24 and 80 years old (median: 54). The numbers of patients in stages I to IV were 0, 3, 22 and 56, respectively. There were no significant difference in T- and N-distributions between the two treatment groups. Radiotherapy alone was used in 18 patients with 1.8 Gy per fraction per day to a mean total dose of 63.9 Gy (range 34.2 to 75.6 Gy). Surgical treatment for 63 patients consisted of total laryngectomy with partial or total pharyngectomy and esophagectomy when indicated. These patients received adjuvant radiotherapy to a mean dose of 60.4Gy (range 36 to 73.8 Gy).

Results: The 5-year survival rates were 33% for patients treated with surgery plus adjuvant radiotherapy and 30% for patients treated with radiotherapy alone. There was no significant difference in survival between the two treatment groups. The local control rate at 5 years was 52% for patients treated with surgery plus adjuvant radiotherapy, compared with 40% for patients treated with radiotherapy alone with a significant difference ($p = 0.015$). Multivariate analysis identified that perineural invasion and necrosis are the significant predictors of poorer survival.

Conclusion: The combination of surgery plus radiotherapy results in a better loco-regional control than radiotherapy alone, but dose not yield a better survival. Perineural invasion and necrosis are associated with poorer survival.

[Therapeut Radiol Oncol 1998; 5: 253 - 259]

Key words: Hypopharyngeal cancer, Radiotherapy, Surgery

INTRODUCTION

Hypopharyngeal cancers often present an

advanced stage at diagnosis and are associated with a poor prognosis [2,4,7]. In Taiwan, they account for 7% of all head and neck cancers

Received: 1999, 1, 8. Accepted: 1999, 2, 20.

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