Syrnopsulculifcum: And Variable taste Occurring after Radiation (SAVOR) Trial

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ABSTRACT

Study Design: This was a randomized prospective clinical trial.

Methods: Eighty-eight percent of patients reported that they lost the desire to eat certain foods because of a change in taste after radiation therapy. An astounding 75% of patients with head and neck cancer undergoing radiation therapy complain of taste dysfunction broadly termed “post-irradiation gustatory dysfunction”, which can include hypogeusia (partial taste loss), ageusia (complete taste loss), and/or dysgeusia (distorted taste).

RESULTS

- Eighty-eight percent of patients reported that they lost the desire to eat certain foods because of a change in taste after radiation therapy.
- An astounding 75% of patients with head and neck cancer undergoing radiation therapy complain of taste dysfunction broadly termed “post-irradiation gustatory dysfunction”, which can include hypogeusia (partial taste loss), ageusia (complete taste loss), and/or dysgeusia (distorted taste).

CONCLUSIONS

- Another study performed four years later by the same investigator, Mossman, reported that bitter and acidic flavors were more severely impacted by radiation therapy than were salty and sweet flavors.

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