Differences in Quality of Life in Acoustic Neuroma Patients

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ABSTRACT

Using the Penn Acoustic Neuroma Quality of Life (PANQOL) survey we wanted to determine if there is a difference in quality of life for patients with acoustic neuromas undergoing conservative management, and those undergoing stereotactic radiosurgery (gamma knife).

INTRODUCTION

When comparing the two treatment groups, there was no statistical difference in age, sex, time from diagnosis to completion of PANQOL, and percentage of tumors with an extracanicular component. However there was a statistical difference in tumor size, whether measured at the time of the PANQOL survey for both or at the time of the PANQOL survey (Table 1).

RESULTS

Table 1. Group Characteristics

| Table 2. Conservative versus Gamma Knife Audiometric Data
| Table 3. Conservative versus Gamma Knife Gardner/Robertson Classification

CONCLUSIONS

As more acoustic neuroma patients seen by our department complete the PANQOL survey we will be able to use this tool to conduct more in depth analysis of quality of life. Our ideal study would be prospective patients who undergo all three-treatment modalities, but at this time, including pre and post treatment survey results, including surgery. By following the patient’s quality of life score over time we will be able to determine confounding variables and more clearly see the impact that treatment is having on these patients.

REFERENCES