Swallowing Ability Following Post Chemoradiotherapy Neck Dissection

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ABSTRACT

Objective: This study assesses swallowing following chemoradiotherapy and neck dissection in head and neck cancer patients and evaluates the impact of clinical, treatment and neck dissection factors associated with surgical outcome.

Study Design: Case series with chart review.

Setting: Tumor Care Clinic.

Subjects and Methods: 68 patients undergoing neck dissection after chemoradiotherapy for advanced head and neck cancer were reviewed. Dysphagia outcome measures included weight loss, diet, gastrostomy tube dependency, vocal fold paralysis, and swallowing function (Dysphagia Outcome Measures Scale (DOMS)).

RESULTS: Retrospective analysis of patients that underwent ND after CRT for advanced stage HNC at our institutions between January 1998 and June 2008.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

Patient Characteristics

Characteristics n (%)

Gender

Male 75 (91)

Female 13 (15)

Age, Mean Range, 53.3, 39-78

Tumorsite

Oropharynx 72 (88)

Hypopharynx 4 (5)

Larynx 2 (2)

Unknown 10 (11)

ND Characteristics

MRT Daily IMRT 3 Field or Conformal 61 (69)

Induction Chemotherapy 61 (69)

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