ABSTRACT

Objectives

Primary radiotherapy with or without chemotherapy is the treatment of choice for oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinomas (OPSCC) in most institutions, although it is associated with severe toxicities which are exacerbated by chemotherapy. Transoral robotic surgery (TORS) has been increasingly used as an alternative treatment option for OPSCC. TORS may offer long-term oncologic and functional outcomes equivalent or superior to those of other surgical and non-surgical options with decreased length of hospitalization and requirement of tracheostomy or permanent gastrostomy tube. However, no studies have directly compared oncologic outcomes between TORS and definitive chemoradiation (CRT).

RESULTS

We aimed to compare oncologic outcomes between OPSCC patients treated with definitive CRT and those treated with TORS only.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

- An observational comparison study was performed on:
  1. 23 patients treated with TORS alone
  2. 33 patients treated with definitive CRT

All patients were:
- Treated between July 2005 and December 2013.
- Had T0-T2 and N0-N2 disease.
- Median age was 57.
- 80.4% of patients were male.
- 70.0% of TORS patients had HPV+ disease vs 33.3% of CRT patients.
- However, HPV status not tested in 63.6% of CRT patients.

CONCLUSIONS

- Definitive CRT and TORS alone offer similar rates of locoregional control, distant control, overall survival, and DFS in patients with early stage OPSCC.
- Further studies are needed to assess the effect of CRT and TORS on quality of life in this patient population.

REFERENCES