Hypopharyngeal carcinoma: a 5-year review of 329 cases

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ABSTRACT

The outcome objectives of this study were to analyze the incidence, risk factors, clinical manifestations and treatment related-outcomes of patients with hypopharyngeal cancer diagnosed in an Oncology Referral Center and also recognize the importance of an early diagnosis in hypopharyngeal cancer.

Methods: Retrospective analysis of clinical records of patients diagnosed with hypopharyngeal cancer between 2004 and 2008.

Results: 329 cases of hypopharyngeal cancer were diagnosed in our department. Males constitute 96.7% of cases. The most vulnerable age group was the age range between the 5th and the 7th decades. The mean age was 59 years. Odynophagia was the main symptom referred as first manifestation. Risk factors such as alcohol consumption and smoking habits were present in most patients. Invasive squamous cell carcinoma moderately differentiated was the most common histopathological type. As for location, pyriform sinuses tumors are the most prevalent. Regarding the stage and according to the TNM classification, 76.5% of tumors were classified as T3 or T4a/b. Almost 80% of patients presented with cervical lymphadenopathy at the time of diagnosis. 145 patients underwent surgical treatment, many of whom with complementary radiotherapy and chemotherapy. The overall survival rate at 5 years was 27.1%.

Conclusion: In our sample, as described in the literature, we found that inequpressive symptoms and the aggressive behavior of hypopharyngeal cancer may contribute to a delay in diagnosis. The calculated survival rate is identical to the literature.

OUTCOME OBJECTIVES

1. Analyze the incidence, risk factors, clinical manifestations and treatment related-outcomes of patients with hypopharyngeal cancer diagnosed in an Oncology Referral Center (Instituto Português de Oncologia de Lisboa, Francisco Gentil – IPOLFG)
2. Recognize the importance of an early diagnosis in hypopharyngeal cancer

METHODS AND MATERIALS

• Retrospective analysis of clinical records of patients diagnosed with hypopharyngeal cancer between 2004 and 2008.
• The authors analyzed variables of sex, age, location, initial symptom, staging, therapeutic approach, histological characterization, recurrence and survival rate, comparing between chemotherapy and surgery.

RESULTS/DISCUSSION

• Between 2004 and 2008, 329 cases of hypopharyngeal cancer were diagnosed in our department.
• Males constitute 96.7% of cases. (chart 1.)
• The most vulnerable age group was the age range between the 5th and the 7th decades. The mean age was 59 years. (chart 2.)
• Odynophagia was the main symptom referred as first manifestation. (chart 3)
• Risk factors such as alcohol consumption and smoking habits were present in most patients.
• Invasive squamous cell carcinoma moderately differentiated was the most common histopathological type.
• As for location, pyriform sinuses tumors are the most prevalent with 85%.

• Regarding the stage and according to the TNM classification, 76.5% of tumors were classified as T3 or T4a/b. (fig.2)
• Almost 80% of patients presented with cervical lymphadenopathy at the time of diagnosis. (fig.2)
• 92% of patients were diagnosed in stages III or IV

• 145 patients underwent surgical treatment, many of whom with complementary radiotherapy and chemotherapy.
• The overall survival rate at 5 years was 27.1%. (chart 4) Patients treated with surgery had a better survival rate. (charts 5&6)

CONCLUSION

In our sample, as described in the literature, we found that inequpressive symptoms and the aggressive behavior of hypopharyngeal cancer may contribute to a delay in diagnosis. The calculated survival rate is identical to the literature.