TREATMENT OUTCOME OF SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA OF THE TONGUE.


By,

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ABSTRACT.

The main aim for this study is to provide clear picture regarding the outcome of tongue cancer patients treated in University Malaya Medical Centre. This centre can be addressed as a Centre of Referral for Malaysia generally. Tongue cancer is a complex disease and it was related to poor outcome even after treatment.

In this retrospective study, 48 patients with squamous cell carcinoma of tongue were identified from record unit. Patient’s data collected since January 1992 until December 2005, whereby patients were treated either by Oral & Maxillofacial Department, Dental Faculty, University Malaya or Department of ENT University Malaya Medical Centre.

Of 48 patients, only 30 patients eligible for the study and the remaining have to be excluded due to several reasons. About 43% of sample was Chinese and followed by Indian, Malays and other races. All the lesion were diagnosed as squamous cell carcinoma and it was involved age of 16 to 74 with age mean 50. The incidence was common in the old patient group ( >46 ) which recorded 63.3% and 36.7% in young patient ( < 46 ). Gender ratio almost equal.

80% of cases were diagnosed as oral tongue cancer and the rest involved base of tongue. 43.3% of patients in stage IV, 30% in stage II and 13.3% in stage I and III. Neck involvement; 53.3% with NO , 13.3% with N1, N2a and N2b another 3.3% with N2c and N3. Histological grading ; 56.7 % moderately differentiated, 40% well and another 3.3% poorly differentiated.
CONTENT

TITLE PAGE I
ACKNOWLEDGMENT II
ABSTRACT III
CONTENT V
LIST OF TABLES VIII
LIST OF FIGURES X
Chapter 1 : INTRODUCTION 1
Chapter 2 : LITERATURE REVIEW 3
  2.1. General 3
  2.2. Oral cancer in Malaysia 3
  2.3. Oral cancer in global 4
  2.4. Etiology 6
  2.5. Tumour characteristic 7
  2.6. Treatment modalities 16
  2.7. Neck treatment 20
  2.8. Prognosis and survival 24
Chapter 3 : PURPOSE OF STUDY 29
  3.1. Aim 29
  3.2. Objectives 29
Chapter 4 : MATERIALS AND METHODS 30
  4.1. Materials 30
4.2. Methods

4.3. Categorical analysis of data

4.4. Criteria of case inclusion

4.5. Criteria of case exclusion

Chapter 5: RESULTS

5.1. Demographic data

5.1.1. Age

5.1.2. Gender

5.1.3. Ethnic

5.1.4. Tumour site

5.1.5. Tumour size

5.1.6. Neck node

5.1.7. Staging

5.1.8. Histopathological examination

5.1.9. Treatment of primary site

5.1.10. Neck treatment

5.1.11. Recurrence

5.1.12. Status

5.2. Survival analysis

5.2.1. Overall survival

5.2.2. Survival by age

5.2.3. Survival by staging

5.2.4. Survival by clinical nodes
5.2.5. Survival by treatment
5.2.6. Survival by subsite
5.2.7. Survival by HPE grading
5.3. Disease free period
5.3.1. Disease free by stage
5.3.2. Disease free by HPE grading
5.3.3. Disease free by treatment
5.3.4. Disease free by site
5.4. Disease recurrence
5.4.1. Incidence of recurrence
5.4.2. Site of recurrences
Chapter 6: DISCUSSION
Chapter 7: CONCLUSION
REFERENCES
APPENDIX 1
For the oral tongue, all the cancers were located at lateral border of tongue except one occurred on dorsum. Presently, surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy or combinations are the option treatment modalities for cancer. Patients came to the centre with multi characteristics tumour appearances which determined the mode of treatment. 40% (n=12) and 27% (n=8) of patients underwent surgery and radiotherapy respectively, 26.7% received surgery and post operative radiotherapy, 3.3% had radiotherapy and surgery and 3.3% had other mode of treatment. Neck treatment; 56.7% do not have any neck treatment, 16.7% had radical neck dissection (RND), 16.7% had bilateral neck dissections and 10% had selective neck dissection.

Overall 5 year survival was about 27%. By site, 5 year survival for oral tongue cancer was 33% and nil for base of tongue. The 5 years survival probability for stage I (75%), stage 2 / stage 3 (33.3%) and 7.7% for stage 4. The 5 years survival probability for N0 (43.8%), N2a (25%) and none for N1, N2b, N2c and N3. Staging of disease and neck node involvement were statistically significant for survival. Patient with early cancer stage (Stage I & II) have a better disease control. About 1/3 (n=11) of samples have more than 2 years disease free period. Recurrence occurred in 43.3% (n=13) of patients and 61.5% of that occurred in the neck region. Out of 30 patients, 26.7% (n=8) of them still alive and most of them from young group patient (<46).
LIST OF TABLES.

1. Table 1: TNM Classification (UICC and AJCC 1988) of tumour size (T).
2. Table 2: TNM Classification for regional metastasis (N).
3. Table 3: TNM Classification for metastasis (M).
4. Table 4: Staging grouping for oral cancer (UICC 1997).
5. Table 5: Histological Grading.
6. Table 6: Patients’ mean age & age range.
7. Table 7: Gender distribution.
8. Table 8: Ethnic distribution.
9. Table 9: Site of tumour.
10. Table 10: Tumour Size.
11. Table 11: Neck node involvement.
12. Table 12: Staging.
13. Table 13: HPE Distribution.
14. Table 14: Treatment distribution.
15. Table 15: Neck Treatment.
16. Table 16: Incidence of recurrent.
17. Table 17: Patient’s status.
18. Table 18: Overall survival.
19. Table 19: Survival by age.
20. Table 20: Survival by clinical staging.
21. Table 21: Survival by clinical nodes.
22. Table 22: 5 year-survival by treatment.
23. Table 23: 5 year-survival by cancer sub site.

24. Table 24: Survival by HPE grading

25. Table 25: 2 years disease free by stage

26. Table 26: 2 years disease free period by HPE grading

27. Table 27: 2 years disease free period by treatment.

28. Table 28: 2 years disease free by site.

29. Table 29: Incidence of recurrence

30. Table 30: Site of recurrence
LIST OF FIGURES.

1. Figure 1. Gender distribution.
2. Figure 2: Ethnic distribution.
3. Figure 3: Site Distribution
4. Figure 4: Size (T)
5. Figure 5: Neck node distribution
6. Figure 6: Staging distribution
7. Figure 7: HPE Distribution
8. Figure 8: Treatment distribution.
9. Figure 9: Neck treatment distribution
10. Figure 10: Recurrent distribution
11. Figure 11: Patient’s status distribution
12. Figure 12: Kaplan-Meier curve for overall survival
13. Figure 13: Kaplan Meier survival curve by age
14. Figure 14: Kaplan – Meier survival curve by clinical staging
15. Figure 15: Kaplan – Meier survival curve by clinical nodes.
16. Figure 16: Kaplan Meier Survival curve by treatments.
17. Figure 17: Kaplan – Meier survival curve by cancer sub site
18. Figure 18: Kaplan Meier survival curve by HPE grading.