

**TREATMENT OUTCOME OF SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA
OF THE TONGUE.**

**Submission of Research Report in the partial fulfillment for a Degree of
Master of Clinical Dentistry (Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery).**

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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.

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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).

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