

The Experience of the National Institute of Oncology in Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma

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The epithelial malignant tumours of the nasopharynx constitute an epidemiological, clinical and biological entity, different from other cervico-facial cancers. In our institute. It is the most common head and neck cancer.

Materials and Methods

A total of 188 patients with nasopharyngeal carcinoma were recruited in our institution between January and December 2006. The aim of this study is to expose the epidemiological, clinical and evolutionary characteristics of this pathology.

Results

The median of age of the patients was 47 years (12- 77 years).66% of the patients were male. The median time of consultation was 7 months. 80% of the patients presented cervical lymph nodes at the first consultation. The pathology exam had shown a UCNT in 90% of the cases. A CT scan of the nasopharynx was made among all patients. After a distant work up, the patients were classified according to TNM 2002 classification: 5% T1, 43.5% T2, 22.5% T3 and 24.5% T4. 12.5% of the patients had metastatic disease. Regarding treatment, 129 patients received neoadjuvant chemotherapy. The radiotherapy was delivered in 118 cases. 37 patients had no treatment. In 75% of the cases, the protocol of chemotherapy was based on anthracyclines / Platine. The median number of cures was 3. The chemotherapy was followed by a loco regional radiotherapy in 92% of the cases..

The evaluation of the treated patients assembled that 60% of the patients were in complete response, 8% in partial response. The evolution was marked by 10 cases of nasopharyngeal and/or nodal recurrences, 13 cases of distant metastases. The median follow up was 12 month, 47% of the patients are always followed in good control of their disease.

Conclusion

The progress of radiotherapy and the association of neoadjuvant and/or concomitant chemotherapy allowed an improvement of the local control and survival of patients suffering from nasopharyngeal carcinoma.