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Use of Induction Chemotherapy for Advanced Stage Oral Cavity Squamous Cell Carcinoma

Saurin R. Popat

University of Buffalo School of Medicine & Dentistry, USA

Oral cavity squamous cell carcinoma (OC-SCCa) accounts for nearly 1/3 of all head and neck squamous cell cancers in the US however with significant international geographic variation due to carcinogen exposure and availability. The mainstay of treatment for resectable disease had been surgery with postoperative radiation based on specific clinical and pathologic features. Survival rates have little improved prior to the use of concurrent postoperative chemoradiation. Since 2009, we have employed induction chemotherapy (ICT) as an option to be added to the comprehensive treatment of OC-SCCa. A review of our outcomes was conducted.

Patients/Methods: Retrospective review from 2010 -2015 of patients with stage IV OC-SCCa with minimal 24 month follow-up who received ICT and with no previous history of treated head & neck SCCa. 59 patients were identified however 6 met inclusion criteria. All received 2 to 3 cycles of ICT consisting of cisplatin and either fluorouracil and/or a taxane. Following IHC, all underwent surgical resection.

Results: Survival from OC-SCCa was 100% with 4 patients NED and 2 patients DOC/NED. Median survival was 54.3 months. Three patients had ICT complications but recovered and proceeded to surgery. There were 3 surgical complications in 2 patients. Historic literature based on AJCC data has survival at 4.5 years to be approximately 29%.

Conclusions: Though the study size is small, ICT demonstrated excellent tumor response in our patient population with enduring and superior disease free survival. A larger multicenter trial would be required to confirm these results and outline chemotherapy drug selection.

Biography

Saurin R. Popat has completed Doctorate of Medicine from the University of Western Ontario, London, Canada in 1992, followed by an Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery Residency at the University of Toronto in 1997 and two Fellowships in Head & Neck Surgical Oncology/Microvascular Reconstruction at the University of Toronto (1999) and Skull Base Surgery in Switzerland (2000). He completed an MBA from Cornell University (2010) and serves as Director of Head & Neck Surgery at the Comprehensive Head & Neck Center (CHANCE) in Buffalo, NY with more than 30 publications and book chapters.

saurinpopat@gmail.com

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