

# SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA OF HYPOPHARYNX

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**Introduction.** Hypopharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma(SCC) represents 3-5% of all SCC of the head and neck region (*Hall,2008*). Thirty percent of patients diagnosed with hypopharyngeal malignancy die within a year of diagnosis, and less than 40% survive to 5 years (*Cooper,2009*).

**Aim.** The purpose of this study is to characterize the clinical data of first-time diagnosed hypopharyngeal cancer and compare prognosis with laryngeal cancer.

**Results.** During the span of five years (from January 2010 till December 2014) 141 patients with hypopharyngeal cancer were hospitalized, revealing 111 first-time diagnosed cases, which were included in the study. There were 20 patients in 2010; 24-2011; 18-2012; 26-2013; 23-2014. Hypopharyngeal cancer was diagnosed 94.6% (95% confidence interval (CI)=90.4-98.8%) men and 5.4% (1.2-9.6%) women. Female and male proportion was 1:17.5. The mean age was 63 years $\pm$ 8.6 years (61.4-64.6 years). The predominance of the cases was determined at the age of 60-69 years- 41.4% (32.24-50.56%). The age of the patients ranged from 44 to 93 years. There was no significant difference between the employment groups (employed, unemployed, pensioner) and the period of time from the first symptoms till appointment to the doctor ( $p=0.096$ ). The most common mode of the first sign presentation were dysphagia 26.1% (17.93-34.27%), neck mass 3.4% (15.52-31.28%) and hoarseness 13.5% (7.14-19.86%).

Histological examination revealed SCC in all cases. Stage I hypopharyngeal cancer was not found at all, II-4.6%(0.65-8.55%), III-14.8%(8.1-21.5%), IV-80.6%(73.14-88.06%). Primary tumour T<sub>1</sub> was discovered in 8.3%(3.1-13.5%), T<sub>2</sub>-13.9%(7.38-20.42%), T<sub>3</sub>-28.7%(20.17-37.23%), T<sub>4</sub>-49.1%(39.67-58.53%). Seventy three percents (64.74-81.26%) of patients had metastases in regional lymph nodes with predominance in ipsilateral side for 73%(63.33-82.67%) of cases. A correlation between the parameter T and N was not established ( $p=0.622$ ). Distal metastases were found in 9%(3.68-14.32%) of cases with 70%(41.6-98.4%) in lungs.

The therapy strategies focused on actinotherapy for 63.1%(54.02-71.98%) of patients, actinotherapy plus surgery-2.7%(0.32-5.72%), actinotherapy plus chemotherapy - 3.6%(0.13-7.07%), only a surgical approach for 1.8%(0-4.27%). However, for 28.8%(20.38-37.22%) of patients only palliative approach was possible.

To compare prognosis with laryngeal cancer, a control group was made including first-time diagnosed 111 patients with laryngeal cancer from the same period of time. Stage I laryngeal neoplasm was found in 9.3%(3.8-14.8%), II-24.3%(16.17-32.43%), III-45.8%(36.36-55.24%), IV-20.6%(12.94-28.26%). Primary tumour T<sub>1</sub> was discovered in 10.3%(4.54-16.06%), T<sub>2</sub>-29%(20.4-37.6%), T<sub>3</sub>-51.4%(41.93-60.87%), T<sub>4</sub>-9.3%(3.8-14.8%). Twenty six percents of patients had metastases in regional lymph nodes with predominance in ipsilateral side for 58.6%(40.67-76.53%) of cases. Distal metastases were found in 5.4%(1.2-9.6%) of cases with 67%(28.95-100%) in lungs.

**Conclusions.** Hypopharyngeal cancer is more commonly diagnosed in male than in female. SCC is the most frequent malignant neoplasm of hypopharynx. Lesions in the hypopharynx mostly have manifestation at an advanced stage of disease and majority of the cases are diagnosed lately. Hypopharyngeal cancer represents worse prognosis than laryngeal cancer.