



U.O.di RADIOTERAPIA Osp. di Circolo e Fondazione Macchi VARESE

La terapia di supporto nei trattamenti integrati – M.Molteni

L'Autore dichiara assenza di conflitto di interessi in merito agli argomenti trattati in questa presentazione

Oral Complications of Cancer and Cancer Therapy

From Cancer Treatment to Survivorship

Joel B. Epstein, DMD, MSD, FRCD(C), FDS RCS (Edin)¹; Juliette Thariat, MD, PhD²; Rene-Jean Bensadoun, MD, HDR³; Andrei Barasch, DMD, MDSc⁴; Barbara A. Murphy, MD⁵; Leanne Kolnick, MD⁶; Leslie Popplewell, MD⁷; Ellie Maghami, MD, FACS⁸

TABLE 1. Oral Complications of Cancer Therapy

COMPLICATION	MPLICATION SYMPTOMS		
Acute			
Mucosal	Mucositis, pain, dysphagia, limited oral function		
Saliva change	Viscosity, volume		
Neurosensory	Taste alteration, taste loss, neuropathic pain		
Infection	*		
Dental/periodontal	Acute exacerbation of chronic infection		
Mucosal Candida, herpes, other			
Limited movement	Opening of the jaw, tongue function		

Cronic

Mucosal pain	Atrophy, neuropathy		
Saliva	Viscosity, hyposalivation		
Neurosensory	Taste alteration, taste loss, halitosis, mucosal neuropathy, trismus		
Limited movement	Lip aperture, mucosa, muscle/TMJ, neck, shoulder, tongue, trismus		
Infection	*		
Mucosal	Pain, halitosis		
Dental	Demineralization, caries		
Periodontal	Advanced attachment loss, mobility		
Risk of mucosal injury			
Necrosis	Soft tissue, bone		
Esthetic impact	Social withdrawal, low quality of life, depression		
Speech	Social withdrawal, depression		
Mastication/dysphagia	Impact on energy and nutrient intake		

TMJ indicates temporomandibular joint.

Author	F-up	treatment	Unrelated cancer Death	Population	Percentage
Cooper	10 y	S->RT	50	208	24%
2012		S-CRT	72	202	35.6%

1 Long-Term Follow-Up of the RTOG 9501/Intergroup Phase III Trial: Postoperative Concurrent Radiation Therapy and Chemotherapy in High-Risk Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Head and Neck

J. S. Cooper*¹, Q. Zhang*², A. A. Forastiere*³, J. Jacobs*⁴, S. B. Saxman*⁵, J. A. Kish*⁶, A. J. Cmelak*⁷, J. F. Ensley*⁸, C. J. Schultz*⁹, S. S. Yom*¹⁰. ,
¹Maimonides Cancer Center, Brooklyn, NY, ²Radiation Therapy Oncology Group, Philadelphia, PA, ³Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, MD, ⁴Barbara Ann Karmanos Comprehensive Cancer Center, Detroit, MI, ⁵Lilly USA, Indianapolis, IN, ⁶H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, FL, ⁷Vanderbilt Cancer Center, Nashville, TN, ⁸Harper-Grace Hospitals, Detroit, MI, ⁹Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI, ¹⁰University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, CA

Purpose/Objectives: Previous analysis of this Intergroup trial demonstrated that with a median follow-up among surviving patients of 45.9 months, the concurrent postoperative administration of cisplatin and radiation therapy improved local-regional control and disease-free survival of patients who had high-risk resectable head and neck carcinomas. With a minimum of 10 years of follow-up potentially now available for all patients, these results are herein updated to examine long-term outcomes. Material/Methods: 410 analyzable patients who had high-risk resected head and neck cancers were prospectively randomized to receive either radiation therapy (RT: 60 Gy in 6 weeks) or identical RT plus cisplatin, 100 mg/m² i.v. on days 1, 22, and 43 (RT + CT). Results: At 10 years, the local-regional failure rates were 28.8% vs. 22.3% (p=0.10), disease-free survival was 19.1% vs. 20.1% (p=0.25) and overall survival was 27.0% vs. 29.1% (p=0.31) for patients treated by RT vs. RT + CT respectively. In the unplanned subset analysis limited to patients who had microscopically involved resection margins and/or extracapsular spread of disease, local-regional failure occurred in 33.1% vs. 21.0% (p=0.02), disease-free survival was 12.3% vs. 18.4% (p=0.05) and overall survival was 19.6% vs. 27.1% (p=0.07) respectively. Cause-specific survival trended towards improved outcome with RT + CT for patients whose death was due to the study cancer; however, more deaths not due to the study cancer were observed in patients treated with concurrent cisplatin. Conclusion: At a median follow-up of 9.4 years for surviving patients no significant differences in outcome were observed in the analysis of all randomized, eligible patients. Analysis of the subgroup of patients who had either microscopically involved resection margins and/or extracapsular spread of disease showed improved local-regional control with concurrent administration of chemotherapy. The subgroup of patients who were enrolled only because they had tumor in multiple lymph nodes di

Author Disclosure Block: J.S. Cooper: None. Q. Zhang: None. A.A. Forastiere: None. J. Jacobs: None. S.B. Saxman: A. Employment; Lilly, USA. J.A. Kish: None. A.J. Cmelak: None. J.F. Ensley: None. C.J. Schultz: None. S.S. Yom: None.

Death

Patients at Risk Years after Randomization RT 208 121 93 72 60 54 44 39 33 25 16 RT+CT 202 132 110 93 79 71 64 54 46 34 26

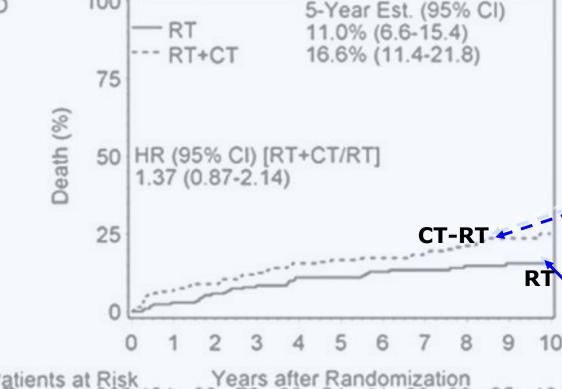
Clinical Investigation: Head and Neck Cancer

Long-term Follow-up of the RTOG 9501/Intergroup Phase III Trial: Postoperative Concurrent Radiation Therapy and Chemotherapy in High-Risk Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Head and Neck

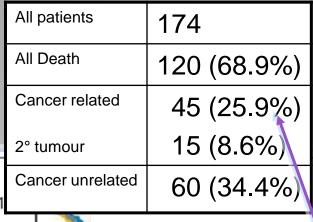
Jay S. Cooper, MD,* Qiang Zhang, PhD,† Thomas F. Pajak, PhD,† Arlene A. Forastiere, MD,† John Jacobs, MD,§ Scott B. Saxman, MD,† Julie A. Kish, MD,† Harold E. Kim, MD,** Anthony J. Cmelak, MD,†† Marvin Rotman, MD,‡ Robert Lustig, MD,§ John F. Ensley, MD,§ Wade Thorstad, MD,†† Christopher J. Schultz, MD,†¶ Sue S. Yom, MD,*** and K. Kian Ang, MD, PhD†††

202
141 (69%)
69 (34%)
72 (35%)
()

All patients	208
All Death	148 (71.2%)
Cancer related	98 (47%)
Cancer unrelated	50 (24%)



Author	F-up	treatment	Unrelated cancer Death	Population	Percentage
Cooper	10 y	S->RT	50	208	24%
2012		S-CRT	72	202	35.6%
Forasti	10.8y	RT	50	172	29%
ere		I-RT	60	174	34.5%
2012		CRT	74	174	42.5%



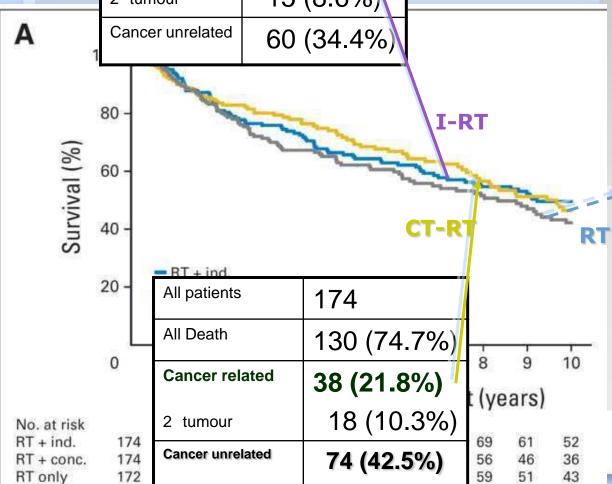
Long-Term Results of RTOG 91-11: A Comparison of Three Nonsurgical Treatment Strategies to Preserve the Larynx in Patients With Locally Advanced Larynx Cancer

Arlene A. Forustiere, Qlang Zhang, Bandal S. Weber, Moshe H. Maor, Helmuth Goepfore, Thomas F. Pajak, William Merriam, Borme Glisson, Andr Train, John A. Bülge, Wade Thorstad, Heavy Wagner, John F. Embey, and Jay S. Cooper

Listen to the podcast by Dr Haran at www.jco.org/podcasts

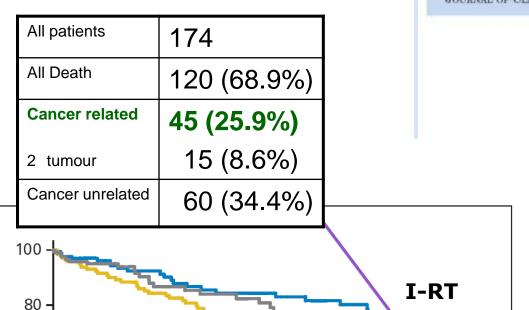
Cancer Related

All patients	172
All Death	124 (72%)
Cancer related	60 (34.8%)
2° tumour	15 (8.7%)
Cancer unrelated	49 (28.4%)



JOURNAL OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

ORIGINAL REPORT



Long-Term Results of RTOG 91-11: A Comparison of Three Nonsurgical Treatment Strategies to Preserve the Larynx in Patients With Locally Advanced Larynx Cancer

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Listen to the podcast by Dr Haran at www.jco.org/podcasts

Cancer Unrelated

All patients	172
All Death	124 (72%)
Cancer related	60 (34.8%)
2 tumour	15 (8.7%)
Cancer unrelated	49 (28.4%)

B Survival (%)	100 - 80 - 60 -	The state of the s		I-RT R CT-RT	
	20 -	All patients	174		
		All Death	130 (74.7%)		
	0	Cancer related	00 (21.070)	8 9 10	
No. at risk		2° tumour	18 (10.3%)	(years)	
RT + ind. RT + conc. RT only	174 174 172	Cancer unrelated	74 (42.5%)	46 38 30 45 38 30 31 26 24	

Author	F-up	treatment	Unrelated cancer Death	Population	Percentage
Cooper	10 y	S->RT	50	208	24%
2012		S-CRT	72	202	35.6%
Forastiere	10.8y	RT	50	172	29%
2012		I-RT	60	174	34.5%
		CRT	74	174	42.5%
Lefebvre	10.4y	S->RT	19	94	20.2%
2012		CRT	27	100	27.0%

Mortalità non cancro correlata a 10 anni di follow up nei trattamenti combinati

Chemotherapy

Annals of Oncology 23: 2708-2714, 2012 doi:10.1093/annonc/mds065 Published online 6 April 2012

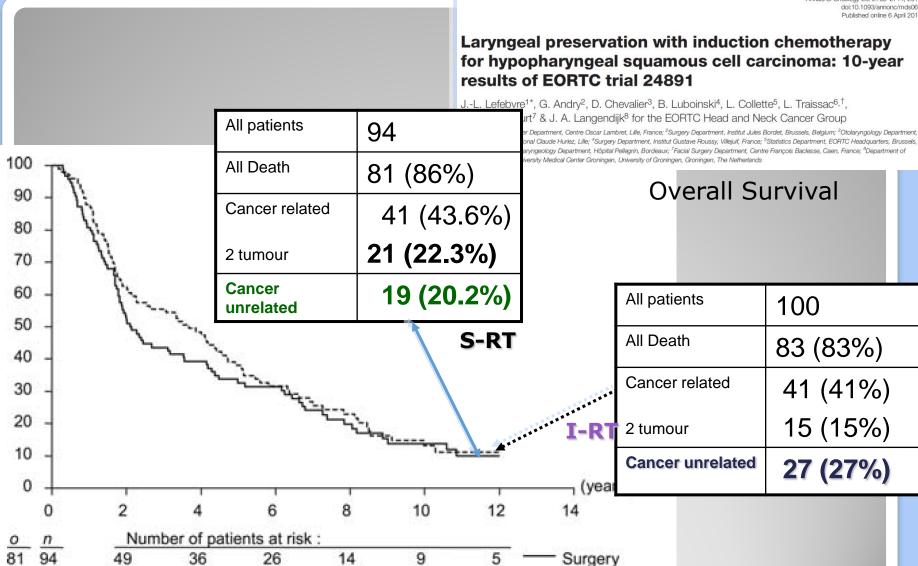


Figure 3. Overall survival. *o* is the number of events; *n* is the number of patients.

27

17

62

47

83 100

Author	F-up	treatment	Unrelated cancer was an unextents in patients in the contract of the contract	Population plained incl	
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– EORT L: _{unre} re arm	lated/ur is anoth	nknown as ler matter	aths observed aths observed of concern Lefebved 27	e Annais or 1	19.2% 26.2%
20		I	Z 1	103	ZU.Z 70

Mortalità non cancro correlata a 10 anni di follow up nei trattamenti combinati

REVIEW ARTICLE

2013

Causes of death of patients with laryngeal cancer

Alfio Ferlito · Missak Haigentz Jr. · Patrick J. Bradley · Carlos Suárez · Primož Strojan · Gregory T. Wolf · Kerry D. Olsen · William M. Mendenhall · Vanni Mondin · Juan P. Rodrigo · Carsten C. Boedeker · Marc Hamoir · Dana M. Hartl · Jennifer L. Hunt · Kenneth O. Devaney · Lester D. R. Thompson ·

Alessandra Rinaldo · Robert P. Takes

In the setting of non-surgical treatment protocols implemented in patients with advanced stage laryngeal cancers, the proportion of those dying during therapy due to acute complications of protocol treatment ranges from 4 to 7.5 % of all registered deaths or between 2 and 6 % of treated patients [8, 32].

Comorbidities and late toxicity of therapy

As mentioned above, the most important risk factors for laryngeal cancer are alcohol and tobacco consumption. These risk factors are also the cause of significant and potentially lethal comorbidity in these patients. Smoking in particular, with all its associated diseases, significantly degrades life expectancy [14]. The adverse impact of smoking on survival is most pronounced in those with early stage disease (stage I–II) with an otherwise favorable prognosis who may live long enough to develop other fatal conditions [15]. In addition to long-term comorbidities.

there is evidence that active smoking impairs efficacy of head and neck cancer therapy [67].

Given aggressive and often multidisciplinary, curativeintent approaches for most patients with laryngeal cancer, treatment-associated mortality may occur from disease-related and therapy-related causes. In those with
associated comorbidities, the risk of dying during the
follow-up period is significantly increased. Chronic
adverse effects of non-surgical treatment for advanced
laryngeal cancer can also result in death reported as from
"other causes" [23]. Mortality can occur from aspiration
and pneumonia resulting from compromised laryngeal
function and sequelae of pharyngeal/esophageal stenosis
and from stroke related to atherosclerosis of the carotid
artery.

REVIEW ARTICLE

Causes of death of patients with laryngeal cancer

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apparent. Among the most common long-term morbidities associated with surgical and non-surgical therapy for laryngeal cancer is hypothyroidism. Thyroid tissue is anatomically anterior to the larynx and is, therefore, included in RT treatment fields; the gland is also removed in the setting of salvage resection. Although symptomatic disease can contribute to quality of life issues, including risk of depression and suicide (see below), subclinical disease contributes to cardiovascular disease risk and resulting early mortality [68] Renal failure from cisplatin-based chemotherapy can also contribute to long-term comorbidities that may impact survival [69].

The question, already raised in the introduction, is whether it is possible to influence the identified causes of death in patients with laryngeal cancer. Some factors will be difficult to influence. However, prevention, including discouraging the continuation of smoking and alcohol abuse and more concern for late effects of treatment, such as swallowing problems with silent aspiration, could be relevant measures in this respect.

JOURNAL OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

EDITORIAL

Competing Roads to Larynx Preservation

Everett E. Vokes, *University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, IL* See accompanying articles on pages 845 and 853

However, for

larynx cancer, tobacco and alcohol exposure remain the dominant risk factors that lead to frequent significant comorbidities and competing mortality risks. In addition, laryngeal cancer can predispose patients to swallowing problems with associated malnutrition and aspiration. Similarly, acute and long-term effects of surgery and radiation can contribute to these complications, especially in older patients and patients with advanced stage disease.

Intriguingly, however, long-term survival beyond 4.5 years showed a separation of survival curves in favor of induction chemotherapy. This trend was caused by a higher number of deaths unrelated to larynx cancer despite the absence of a documented increase in late toxicities in the concomitant group. Although not statistically significant or otherwise well explained by the data, this finding is of considerable concern because long-term survival is likely of greater importance to most patients than the avoidance of a laryngectomy. 12 As the authors point out, it is possible that the decreased long-term survival in the concomitant arm was a random occurrence or was associated with risk-factor-associated comorbidities that were not specific to the treatment delivered. Alternatively, these deaths could have been due to a latent increase of delayed functional decline that led to chronic toxicities including aspiration pneumonia and associated cardiopumonary compromise. It is clearly recognized that, in this 20-year old trial, older radiation techniques were used, and current radiation techniques such as intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) might lead to a lower incidence of late toxicities.

Studio	Schedula	RT	Mortalità
Adelstein	P+RT	С	4%
Forastiere	P+RT	С	5%
Corvò	PF+RT	ALT	7%
Lefebvre	PF+RT	ALT	6%
Bonner	C+RT	C/HF	5%
Posner	TPF→CTRT	C+Cb	2%
Vermorken	TPF→RT	С	2%

La mortalità dei trattamenti integrati dati dagli studi randomizzati

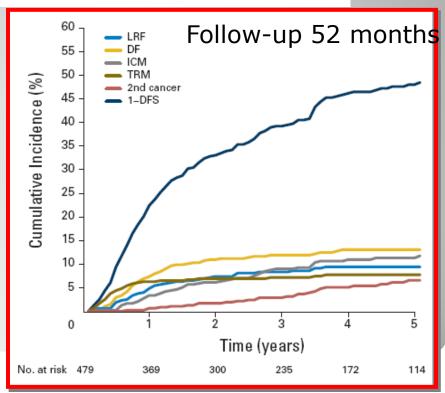
Studio	Centro	#	Mortalità
Argiris 2002	Chicago	324	9.2%
Nguyen 2004	Dallas	55	9,1%
Merlano 2008	Cuneo	155	6.4%
Adelstein 2006	Cleveland	222	14%
Mell 2010	San Diego	479	7,8%

La mortalità dei trattamenti integrati dalle casistiche istituzionali

Predictors of Competing Mortality in Advanced Head and Neck Cancer

Loren K. Mell, James J. Dignam, Joseph K. Salama, Ezra E.W. Cohen, Blase N. Polite, Virag Dandekar, Amit D. Bhate, Mary Ellyn Witt, Daniel J. Haraf, Bharat B. Mittal, Everett E. Vokes, and Ralph R. Weichselbaum

Loco-regional failure	9,4%
Distant failure	13,1 %
Second cancer	6,6%
Treatment-related	7,8%
Intercurrent mortality	11,8 %
Non cancer mortality	19,6 %





Novità e Progressi nelle terapie di supporto nel tumori della testa collo (a cura di Dott. Rampino e dott. Russi)

concer

Raccomandazioni AIRO sulla valutazione e gestione della DISFAGIA Prof. Maria Grazia Ruoredda

SWALLOWING DYSFUNCTION IN HEAD AND NECK CANCER PATIENTS TREATED BY RADIOTHERAPY: REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPPORTIVE TASK GROUP OF THE ITALIAN Association of Radiation Oncology Elvio G. Russi a,

Renzo Corvò b, Anna Merlotti c, et Al.

Low level of evidence

Cancer Treatment Reviews. http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305737212000795 (Accessed April 29, 2012)

Conclusions: In HNCPs treatment, disease control has to be considered in tandem with functional impact on swallowing function. SLPs should be included in a multidisciplinary approach to head and neck cancer.

All patients need to be clinically evaluated for researching signs and symptoms that herald dysphagia.

Table 1 Murphy's trigger for dysphagia evaluation (Murphy and Gilbert 2009)

- Inability to control food, liquids, or saliva in the oral cavity
- Pocketing of food in cheek
- Excessive chewing
- Drooling
- Coughing, choking, or throat clearing before, during, or after swallowing
- Abnormal vocal quality after swallowing; "wet" or "gurgly" voice
- Build-up or congestion after a meal
- Complaint of difficulty swallowing
- Complaint of food "sticking" in throat
- Nasal regurgitation

Consenso sulla terapia di supporto nel paziente con neoplasie testacollo sottoposto a trattamenti integrati chemio-radioterapici.

Gruppo di lavoro AIOM-AIRO sulle terapie di supporto

Milano, 4 febbraio 2012

Table | Suggestion from AIOM-AIRO Dysphagia supportive care group

Nutrition and swallowing experts evaluation

Clinical evaluation for signs and symptoms that herald dysphagia - inhalation - aspiration (advisable also in asymptomatic HNCPs)

Administration of a pts-rated scale evaluating subjective dysphagia and its impact on QOL pre-during and post CRT

All patients with dysphagia signs or symptoms should be referred to a swallowing expert

Swallowing abnormalities should be evaluated with instrumental testing such as FEES (Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing) and/or VFS (Swallowing Videofluoroscopy)

Simulation Computed tomography (S-CT)based delineation guidelines for DARS (dysphagia aspirationrelated structures) and collection odosimetric parameters are suggested

Acute mucositis can worsen dysphagia and increase the risk of polmunary complication. When possible the lowest dose to oral mucosa is advisable

Patients may benefit from strategies aimed at the prevention of swallowing dysfunction after curative (CH) RT such as preventive swallowing exercises during treatment

All patients with dysphagia need to be evaluated by a nutrition expert. Institutional guidelines to standardize the criteria for artificial nutrition (patient selection, timing and methods) are advisable.



Is Speech Language Pathologist Evaluation Necessary in the Nonoperative Treatment of Head and Neck Cancer?

Heather M. Starmer, MA, CCC-SLP; Christine G. Gourin, MD, MPH

BEST PRACTICE

The best evidence strongly supports an active role for SLPs in the nonoperative management of HNCA patients that begins at the point of cancer diagnosis. Pretreatment instrumental swallowing assessments are indicated to identify silent dysphagia to optimize safe and efficient oral intake during treatment and to tailor interventional strategies. Based upon the available evidence, SLP evaluation and prophylactic swallowing intervention should be considered standard of care in the pretreatment setting for patients undergoing organ preservation treatment for HNCA to prevent dysphagia and optimize functional outcomes. Further, long-term follow-up appears appropriate given the potential for long-term sequelae following treatment.



Novità e Progressi nelle terapie di supporto nel tumori della testa collo (a cura di Dott. Rampino e dott. Russi)



Raccomandazioni AIRO sulla valutazione e gestione della DISFAGIA

Prof. Maria Grazia Ruoredda

SWALLOWING DYSFUNCTION IN HEAD AND NECK CANCER PATIENTS TREATED BY RADIOTHERAPY: REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPPORTIVE TASK GROUP OF THE ITALIAN Association of Radiation Oncology Elvio G. Russi a,

Renzo Corvò b, Anna Merlotti c, et Al.

Cancer Treatment Reviews. http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305737212000795 (Accessed April 29, 2012)

(5)Recommendations for chemo	Patients submitted to chemo-radiotherapy need to be monitored for aspiration,	
radio-treated patients	history of recurrent pneumonia, and pulmonary function tests both during	
	therapy and during follow up. (Recommendation C;	
	extrapolation from level 2 and 3)	
	If pneumonia or sepsis is suspected the search for Systemic inflammatory	
	Reaction Syndrome (SIRS) is recommended (Recommendation D; level 5)	
	(expert opinion based on physiology and bench research)	

Caused

Innate Immune Responses to Danger Signals in Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome and Sepsis

A. Castellheim*, O.-L. Brekke†, ‡, T. Espevik§, M. Harboe* & T. E. Mollnes*,†, ‡ **Table 3** Critical illnesses which are induced by systemic inflammation.

Genesis	Condition	Definition
Non-infectious	•	Two or more of: Core temperature >38 °C or <36 °C
	response	Heart rate > 90 beats/min ²
	syndrome ¹	Respiratory rate > 20 breaths/min
		or $PaCO_2 < 4.26$ kPa or
		mechanically ventilated
1 1949 191	→	Leukocyte count >
by conditions like	multiple trauma,	$12.000/\mu l$ or $< 4000/\mu l$

haemorrhage, burn, pancreatitis, ischaemia / reperfusion conditions like

resuscitation after cardiac arrestandinavian Journal of Immunology. 2009;69(6):4

Symptom Control Issues and Supportive Care of Patients With Head and Neck Cancers

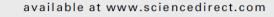
Barbara A. Murphy, MD, Jill Gilbert, MD, Anthony Cmelak, MD, and Sheila H. Ridner, RN, PhD

Clin Adv Hem Oncol 2007

Cumulative Weight Loss and Time Course					
Time Course	Significant Weight Loss	Severe Weight Loss			
1 week	≤2%	>2%			
1 month	≤5%	>5%			
3 months	≤7.5%	>7.5%			
6 months	≤10%	>10%			

Patients with a critical weight loss should be seen quickly by a dietician to formulate an aggressive intervention strategy. Nutritional assessments should continue on a frequent basis throughout the treatment and periodically to ensure adequate nutritional intake. This generally requires the expertise of a dietician versed in facing patients with head and neck cancer.







http://intl.elsevierhealth.com/journals/clnu





OPINION PAPER

Cachexia: A new definition

Weight loss of at least 5% in 3-6 months in cancer patients $(or BMI < 20 \text{ kg/m}^2) **$

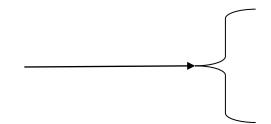
Decreased muscle strength

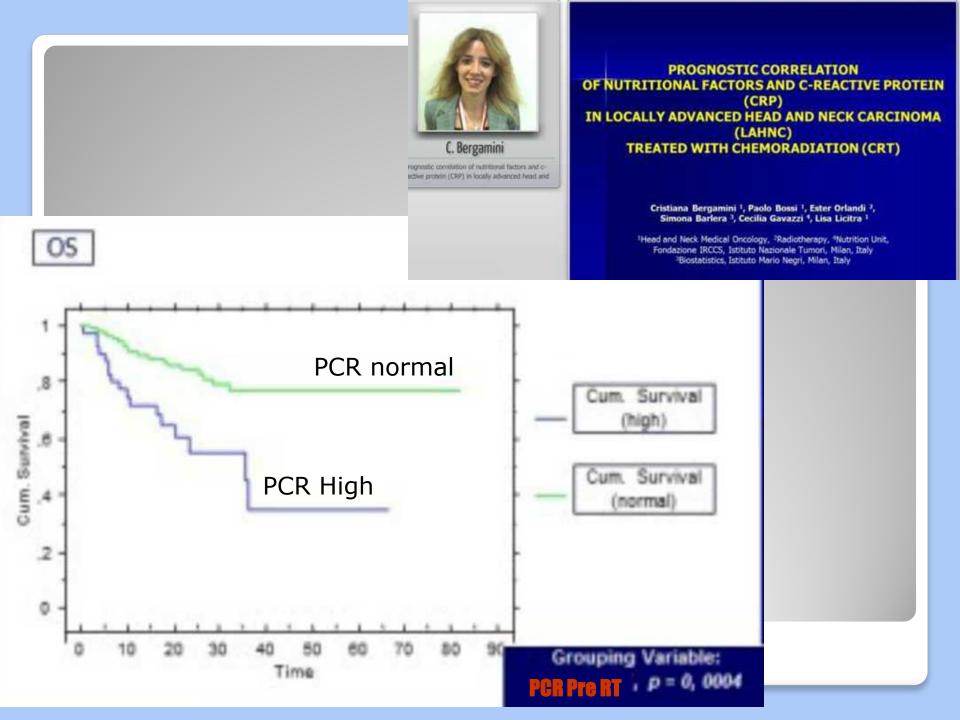
Fatigue ***

Anorexia ****

Low fat-free mass index

Abnormal biochemistry:





NUTRITION IN ONCOLOGY



Prophylactic feeding tubes for patients with locally advanced head-and-neck cancer undergoing combined chemotherapy and radiotherapy—systematic review and recommendations for clinical practice

C. Orphanidou Msc,* K. Biggs basc mhsc,†
M.E. Johnston bsc,‡ J.R. Wright MD msc,†
A. Bowman basc,§ S.J. Hotte MD msc,† A. Esau bhe,||

C. Myers BSc BEd MSc, $^{\#}$ V. Blunt BSc RD, ** M. Lafleur RN, † B. Sheehan MD, § and M.A. Griffin BSc RD ††

- •No randomized controlled trials have directly addressed this question. Evidence from studies in the target population was limited to seven descriptive studies.
- •The available evidence was insufficient to draw definitive conclusions about the effectiveness of prophylactic feeding tubes in the target patient population or to support an evidence-based practice guideline.
- •The recommendations are based on the expert opinion

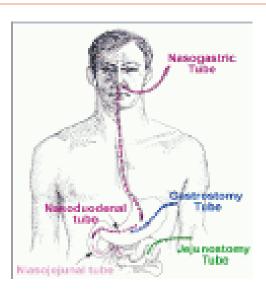


Online Submissions: http://www.wjgnet.com/1007-9327office wjg@wjgnet.com doi:10.3748/wjg.v17.i8.1004 World J Gastroomtorol 2011 February 28; 17(8): 1004-1008 ISSN 1007-9327 (print) ISSN 2219-2840 (online) © 2011 Baishidene. All rights reserved.

DRIEF ARTICLE

Prophylactic PEG placement in head and neck cancer: How many feeding tubes are unused (and unnecessary)?

Mohammad F Madhoun, Matt M Blankenship, Derek M Blankenship, Greg A Krempl, William M Tierney



COMMENTS

Background

Impairment of oral intake occurs in the majority of patients with head and neck cancer (HNC) receiving chemoradiotherapy. Placement of prophylactic percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) tube in asymptomatic newly diagnosed HNC before chemoradiation is a common practice in some centers. In some studies PEG has been associated with a decrease in treatment related weight loss in patients with HNC, but no studies have examined the utilization rate. PEG placement is an invasive procedure, with possible complications. The authors anecdotally noticed a finite rate of non use of prophylactic PEG tubes among those patients.

Research frontiers

This study aimed to determine the prevalence of non use or limited use of prophylactically placed PEG tubes in HNC patients and to evaluate any possible factors that might predict the non use or limited use of prophylactic PEGs.

Innovations and breakthroughs

This is the first study that addressed the issue of use of prophylactic PEG in HNC patients. The result of this study showed that a significant number of patients (47%) with prophylactic PEG tubes never used their PEG or used it for less than 2 wk. No association with PEG use vs non-use was observed for cancer diagnosis, stage, or specific cancer treatment.

Applications

Prophylactic PEG placement may be unwarranted in some patients but the selection of patients needs to be better defined to prevent unnecessary risk exposure.

Peer review

This is a well-written retrospective study, and it is important to realize that prophylactic PEG placement has its side effects.

To PEG or not to PEG?

- Nasogastric and percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy feeding in head and neck cancer patients receiving radiotherapy treatment at a regional oncology unit:a two year study
 - Julie Lees, European Journal of Cancer Care, 1997, 6,4549
- Enteral Nutrition during the Treatment of Head and Neck Carcinoma Is a Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy Tube Preferable to a Nasogastric Tube?
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 - Grant, D.G. et al. Clin. Otolaryngol. 2009, 34, 103-112
- Nasogastric tube feeding and percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy tube feeding in patients with head and neck cancer
 - B. Nugent et al Hum Nutr Diet, 23, pp. 277–284, 2010

Radiotherapy and Oncology 92 (2009) 4-14



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Radiotherapy and Oncology

journal homepage: www.thegreenjournal.com

Meta analysis

Meta-analysis of chemotherapy in head and neck cancer (MACH-NC): *A* on 93 randomised trials and 17,346 patients

Jean-Pierre Pignon^{a,*}, Aurélie le Maître^a, Emilie Maillard^a, Jean Bourhis^b, on behalf of the Collaborative Group¹





Prevenire e contenere la tossicità dei trattamenti integrati nella pratica clinica



Creare un modello riproducibile di terapia di supporto, che consenta di pianificare la gestione dei pazienti e influenzare l'organizzazione dell'assistenza



Costituire una base di consenso adeguata per la costruzione di studi clinici sui trattamenti integrati

Conclusioni

