

Clinicopathologic Predictors of Recurrence and Survival in Patients with Spindle Cell Variant of Squamous Cell Carcinoma

Objectives:

Specific Aim 1: To determine clinical and pathologic predictors of recurrence and survival in patients with spindle cell variant of squamous cell carcinoma (SpSCC)

Specific Aim 2: To determine if patients with SpSCC have a worse locoregional control and survival than conventional squamous cell carcinoma (cSCC).

Methods: 48 patients (mean age, 65.2 years; M:F, 13:35), who underwent definitive treatment for pathologically confirmed SpSCC between 1987 and 2009 were identified and their charts reviewed. The main outcome measures were time to recurrence, disease specific survival and overall survival while controlling for clinical and pathologic parameters (TNM classification, stage, tumor subsite, smoking status, treatment modality, presence of an exophytic tumor).

Results: Of 48 patients, there were 25 oral cavity, 15 laryngeal, 7 oropharyngeal, and 1 maxillary sinus tumors. Primary treatment included surgery in 32, radiation in 9, and concurrent chemoradiation in 7 patients. Overall survival was 66.6% (32/48) with a median follow up of 59 months. 52.1% (25/48) of patients developed a recurrence, with 88% (22/25) recurring locally or locoregionally. Recurrence occurred within two years in 72% (18/25) of the patients. Initial T and N classification, overall stage, tumor subsite and smoking status were not predictive of recurrence, disease specific survival or overall survival. Only gender (female) was predictive of a worse overall survival (7/13 vs 10/35, $p < 0.008$) but not recurrence. The presence of an exophytic tumor did not predict disease recurrence, disease specific survival or overall survival.

Conclusions: Patients with SpSCC are at high risk of developing locoregional recurrence, but overall survival is similar to conventional SCC. Closer follow up should be considered in these patients to allow for earlier detection and treatment of these locally aggressive tumors.