

**Material and Methods:** In the original designed of the study, the treatment options were: (Group A) 3 cycles of CT (Carboplatin 70 mg/mq days 1-4 and Fluorouracil 600 mg/mq/d c.i. for 96 hours) starting on days 1, 22, 43 during RT (66-70 Gy/ 33-35 fr) or (Group B) 3 cycles of neoadjuvant TPF combination (T 75 mg/mq; P 80 mg/mq, F 800 mg/mq c.i. 96h) followed by the same CT/RT.

**Results:** A total of 24 pts were treated. Median age was 59 (range 41-73). Sex M/F: 19/5. Stage II/III/IV: 1/6/17. PS 0/1: 17/7. After the first 16 pts, 8 in Group A and 8 in Group B, the concomitant CT/RT schedule was modified. The limiting toxicity was observed during concomitant CT/RT and was similar in group A and B, independently from neoadjuvant TPF administration. Based on the data showing an excess of G3-4 mucositis not allowing to complete CT/RT without interruption, the following 8 pts (Group C) received 3 cycles of neoadjuvant TPF followed by 2 cycles only of CT with Cisplatin 20 mg/mq days 1-4 + F 800 mg/mq c.i. 96h (PF) during week 1 and 6 of RT.

In the 16 pts receiving 3 cycles of CT during RT, WHO G3-4 hematological toxicity were neutropenia 22% and thrombocytopenia 20%. Non hematological G3-4 toxicity was mucositis 60% and weight loss G2 69%. Toxicities were not increased in the neoadjuvant TPF group. In the last 8 pts receiving 2 cycles only of CT during RT, WHO non hematological G3-4 toxicity were mucositis 28.5% and weight loss G2 28.5%. No WHO hematological G3-4 toxicity was seen.

Toxicities in the 16 pts receiving neoadjuvant TPF were manageable: neutropenia G3-4 37.5% was the principal hematological toxicity while mucositis G2 (44%) was the most important non hematological toxicity. The complete Response Rate for the 24 pts was 77%.

**Conclusion:** Three cycles of neoadjuvant TPF followed by 2 cycles of PF combination during RT are feasible without limiting toxicities. Three cycles of TPF combination are well tolerated and don't compromise subsequent concomitant CT-RT. A randomized multicentric phase III Italian study has started with the aim of comparing 2 cycles of PF during RT as standard treatment vs the experimental arm with 3 cycles of neoadjuvant TPF followed by 2 cycles of PF during RT.

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POSTER

### Small cell carcinoma of the head and neck: experience of a single comprehensive cancer centre

R. Dinniwell, J. Ringash, M. Lock, B. O'Sullivan, A. Bayley, B. Cummings, J. Kim, J. Waldron. *The Princess Margaret Hospital, Radiation Oncology, Toronto, Canada*

**Background:** To review the experience of a single comprehensive cancer centre with small cell carcinoma originating in the head and neck.

**Materials and Methods:** Patient records were reviewed for demographics, presenting site and symptoms, disease stage, pathology, treatment and outcome.

**Results:** Between 1971 and 2002, 11 patients had a pathologic diagnosis of extra-pulmonary small cell carcinoma. Median age was 63 years (range: 20 - 93). The primary sites were: 5 salivary gland (4 parotid; 1 submandibular); 2 larynx; 1 oral cavity; 1 nasopharynx; 1 sphenoid sinus; and 1 unknown primary. There were 2 AJCC(6th ed)/UICC stage 3, 6 stage 4A, and 2 stage 4B tumors. One patient (sphenoid sinus primary) tumour could not be staged. Five of 11 presented with pain and 1/11 with a paraneoplastic syndrome (SIADH). Nine patients had nodal metastases at diagnosis. Definitive surgical resection of primary and regional disease was performed on 6/11. Radical or adjuvant radiotherapy was delivered in 6/11 cases with a median dose of 50 Gy (range 35 to 70). Radiotherapy was not delivered in 3 patients due to post-operative death (1), development of metastases (1) or patient preference (1). Two patients were treated with palliative intent. Five patients received chemotherapy as part of their initial management. Failure was documented locally in 5/11, in regional lymph nodes in 2/11 and distantly in 5/11. For all patients, the median survival was 1 year with a 28% 5 year overall survival. Two patients received both chemotherapy and radiation, each achieved locoregional control; one patient is alive and disease free at 8 years of follow-up.

**Conclusion:** Extra-thoracic small cell carcinoma of the head and neck often presents in advanced stage and has a poor prognosis. A propensity for rapid local growth and distant metastatic spread, suggests a need for aggressive local and effective systemic treatment.

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### Long-term outcome of complications after thyroid cancer surgery

A. Czarniecka<sup>1</sup>, E. Paliczka<sup>2</sup>, Z. Puch<sup>2</sup>, B. Jurecka-Lubieniecka<sup>2</sup>, M. Jarzab<sup>3</sup>, M. Mielicka<sup>2</sup>, J. Wloch<sup>1</sup>, B. Maka<sup>1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>Dept. of Oncological Surgery, <sup>2</sup>Dept. of Nuclear Medicine and Endocrine Oncology, <sup>3</sup>MSC Institute of Oncology, Dept. of Tumor Biology, MSC Institute of Oncology, Gliwice, Poland

Vocal cords paresis and hypoparathyroidism are most relevant complications following radical thyroidectomy in differentiated thyroid cancer (DTC). Their frequency in overall population is higher than in published results of specialized centers and according to Hoelzer *et al.* may reach even 15% of cases. Only a few reports consider the impact of these complications on the quality of life and their long-term outcome, both extremely important for the evaluation of benefit/risk ratio of radical surgery in DTC.

**Aim of the study** was to analyze the persistence of vocal cord paresis and hypoparathyroidism in DTC patients after >2 years since thyroid surgery and assess their impact on the quality of life.

**Material and methods.** 110 patients, 86% women and 14% men, mean age 50.9, among them 52% patients with vocal cord paresis and 48% with post-operative hypocalcaemia were subjected to re-analysis of parathyroid function (Ca<sup>2+</sup>, PTH, diurnal calcium excretion, all analyzed after calcium or 25-OH-cholecalciferol withdrawal) and laryngological examination. Health-related quality of life was measured using City of Hope Quality of Life Thyroid version questionnaire (Ferrell, Dow *et al.*). Complication-related clinical symptoms were recorded on own questionnaire with 24 items, each coded on 10-point continuous scale.

**Results.** Normal parathyroid function was found in 51% of patients, who were claimed persistently hypoparathyroid 6 months after operation. Among patients diagnosed with vocal cord paresis, 33% of cases showed no abnormalities in laryngological examination. Quality-of-Life questionnaire was performed in 41 patients. In the group of patients with vocal cord paresis we revealed a strong impact of nerve palsy on the overall quality-of-life score (correlation coefficient  $r=0.826$ ,  $p<0.005$ ), mainly the physical and psychological well-being. Mean overall QOL score in this group was  $5.66\pm0.50$ . Hypoparathyroidism exhibited relatively weaker impact on overall QOL score ( $r=0.552$ ,  $p<0.05$ ), affecting mainly the psychological and social subscores (overall QOL  $6.17\pm0.35$ ).

**Conclusion.** Diagnosis of persistent complications of thyroid cancer surgery made 6 months post-operation should be re-verified after more than 2 years. Persistent complications affect significantly quality of life of patients, vocal cord paresis being more prominent in comparison to hypoparathyroidism, when substituted properly.

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### Efficacy of I-131 ablation therapy using different doses based on postoperative thyroid scan uptake in patients with differentiated thyroid cancer

J. Zidan<sup>1</sup>, E. Hefer<sup>2</sup>, A. Kuten<sup>2</sup>, O. Israel<sup>2</sup>. <sup>1</sup>Sieff Hospital, Oncology Unit, Safed, Israel; <sup>2</sup>Rambam Medical Center, Institute of Nuclear Medicine, Haifa, Israel

**Background:** The optimal dose of I131 for ablation of functioning residual thyroid tissue after surgery is controversial. The current study was conducted to determine optimal dose of I131 for remnant postoperative ablation including a review of the literature.

**Methods and Materials:** Two hundred thirty eight patients with papillary and follicular carcinoma were treated with I131 for ablation of postoperative thyroid remnant. I131 dose was based on the 24h percentage neck-uptake in postoperative thyroid scans. Patients with <5% uptake received a median of 85 millicuries (mCi); with 6-10% uptake, 80 mCi; with 11-15%, 60 mCi; with 16-20% uptake, 50 mCi and with 21% uptake, 30 mCi. Ablation results were compared with prognostic factors.

**Results:** Complete ablation was observed in 40/43 (92%) patients receiving 85 mCi, in 31/33 (94%) who received 80 mCi, in 39/41 (95%) who received 60 mCi, in 51/55 (93%) who received 50 mCi, in 37/39 (94%) who received 30 mCi and in 18/19 (96%) of all others who received 30 mCi. Overall successful ablation rate was 94%, (95% CI, 89%-100%).

**Conclusion:** Our findings suggest that patients with differentiated thyroid cancer can be treated with doses of I131 according to percentage neck uptake of postoperative TBS, with high complete ablation rates, without exposing patients to higher dose levels of I131.