

CLINICO-PATHOLOGICAL PROFILE OF ANAPLASTIC CARCINOMA IN AN ENDEMIC GOITER AREA

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Background/Purpose: Anaplastic thyroid carcinoma is one of the most aggressive human malignancies. Fifty cases of anaplastic carcinoma of the thyroid in an endemic goiter area were reviewed.

Methods: The medical records of 50 patients diagnosed with ATC at SGPGI between 2000 and 2012 were reviewed and available information was extracted and analyzed.

Results: There were 54% women and 46% men, and median age at diagnosis was 50 years (range:36-80yrs). 34% (n=17) patients were below the age of 50 years. Pre-existing goiter (mean duration: 20.4yrs±11.91) was present in 32% (n=16). 46 % patients had size greater than 10 cm at presentation. The most common initial presentation was rapidly enlarging mass present in 56%, dysphagia in 48 % and change in voice in 44 %.. Patients were diagnosed based on either FNA or biopsy. Histopathology was available in 17 patients. Spindle cell type was the most common histologic type. All cases were retrospectively staged according to the Union for International Cancer Control classification system: IVA in 4 %, IVB in 60 %, and IVC in 36 % . 58% did not consent for any form of therapy. 10% patients received radiotherapy, 18% received radiotherapy and chemotherapy, 4% received only chemotherapy and only 10 % underwent surgery. Only 3 patients received multimodal therapy (surgery, radiotherapy, and chemotherapy).

Discussion & Conclusion: ATC in India presents at an early age (<50yrs) with a rapidly enlarging mass. Anaplastic transformation of pre-existing goiter was seen in one-third of patients. Majority of patients present with inoperable disease and did not opt for any form of treatment and thus carried a dismal prognosis.