

ANAPLASTIC THYROID CANCER: INTERNATIONAL SURVEY OF PRACTICE

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Background/Purpose: The International Rare Cancer Initiative (IRCI) was convened to facilitate research in rare cancers. Anaplastic thyroid cancer was one of the cancers identified. Following a meeting of interested parties in Chicago, June 2011 a survey was designed to ascertain current practices.

Methods: The survey was distributed to the attendees at the IRCI and circulated electronically to the ETA and Thyroid Cancer Forum-UK members.

Survey questions included: number of patients seen per year, breakdown of patients by performance status, disease extent, current treatment protocols for localised disease and metastatic disease, tissue banks and data collection and future research priorities.

Results: Despite wide circulation only 25 replies were received from 10 countries and 7 disciplines.

Numbers of patients seen per year: 1-20 (most ≤ 5)

Treatment of localised disease: Resection where possible. Post operative radiotherapy when possible. No consensus on the value, feasibility and choice of concurrent chemoradiotherapy. No consensus on radiotherapy technique, fractionation or dose.

Treatment of metastatic disease: Very variable regarding chemotherapy, radiotherapy.

Tissue bank and prospective data collection widely supported.

Research priority for localised disease: included multimodality therapy; radiotherapy fractionation and dose: TKIs: antiangiogenic agents

Research priority for metastatic disease: QOL, systemic therapies

Discussion & Conclusion: Presumably the small number of returns reflects the limited number of clinicians involved and interested in the management of ATC. No consensus on current management nor the priorities for future research was identified. ATC research is thwarted not only by rarity but also advanced disease at presentation, poor performance status and poor prognosis