

PROGNOSTIC FACTORS OF SURVIVAL AND RECURRENCE PATTERN IN DIFFERENTIATED THYROID CANCER: A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY FROM WESTERN TURKEY

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Background/Purpose: To determine the prognostic factors of well-differentiated thyroid cancer (WDTC) in patients located in Western Turkey.

Methods: A total of 181 patients who were operated between December 1995-2007, with a diagnosis of thyroid cancer, were included in this retrospective study. Patients were divided into two groups according to age ≤ 45 and > 45 . Seventy-two patients (39.8%) were under the age of 45. The follow-up period was 3.1-14.9 years (median: 6.13 years). Multivariate analysis was performed including the following variables: age, gender, extent of surgery, tumor size, capsule infiltration, extracapsular invasion, histological type, lymph node metastasis, distant metastasis, TNM status, locoregional recurrence and prognosis. SPSS (version 19.0) was used for statistical analysis. Survival was determined with the Kaplan-Meier analysis and for analyzing the influence of variables on disease-free survival, log-rank test was used.

Results: Forty-one (22.6%) locoregional recurrences were detected and 5 (2.7%) patients passed away during the follow-up. Statistically significant prognostic factors were as follows: ultrasonographic and histopathologic nodule size, extent of surgery, histopathologic type of the tumor, number of metastatic lymph nodes, tumor invasion and TNM status.

Discussion & Conclusion: Well-differentiated thyroid cancer has a good prognosis when detected early and treated correctly. Determination of risk factors and method of treatment, which are effective for tumor recurrence and mortality, are important for follow-up and treatment of thyroid cancer.