Adenoid cystic carcinoma of the trachea

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Abstract

Background: Primary malignant neoplasms of the trachea are very rare and there is limited information available on this subject. Adenoid cystic carcinoma is a slow-growing malignant tracheal tumor and the best method of treatment is surgical resection. This study was conducted to evaluate patients with adenoid cystic carcinoma of the trachea who underwent surgical treatment. Materials and Methods: In this descriptive study, 4 patients treated for adenoid cystic carcinoma from 2004 to 2007 at the Mashhad Ghaem Hospital and Tehran Imam Khomeini Hospital were assessed. Results: There were 4 patients (3 males and 1 female) with a mean age of 46.3 years. Dyspnea and stridor were the most common presenting symptoms (75%). All patients underwent rigid bronchoscopy and biopsy. The most common site of involvement was the lower third of trachea (50%). 77.67% of patients underwent surgical resection. Death occurred in one patient after tracheal resection due to aspiration pneumonia (22.22%). Postoperative radiotherapy was performed in 50% of patients because of positive surgical margin and in 25% due to inappropriate location of the tumor after bronchoscopic ablation. During a three-year follow up, one patient (25%) had tumor recurrence. Resection with post-operative radiotherapy was performed for him. The three-year survival was 75%. Conclusion: Because of the nature of adenoid cystic carcinoma of the trachea, surgical resection is the best method of treatment. But if surgical margins are positive post-operative radiotherapy will be necessary. In patients who are not candidates for resection, radiotherapy can be an effective alternative treatment. © 2007 NRITLD, National Research Institute of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, Iran.

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