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Nasopharyngeal Cancer in Children and Adolescents: Experience of Emir Abdelkader Cancer Center of Oran Algeria

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Abstract : Introduction and purpose of the study: Cavum cancer in children and adolescents is rare and represents 8% of all nasopharyngeal cancers treated in our department. Our objective is to study its epidemiological, clinical, therapeutic, and evolutionary particularities. Material and methods: Retrospective study of 39 patients under 20 years old, treated for undifferentiated non-metastatic carcinoma of the nasopharynx at the Emir Abdelkader Cancer Center between 2014 and 2020. Results and statistical analysis: Median age was 14 years [7-19 years], with a sex ratio of 2.9. The median time to diagnosis was 5.6 months [1 to 14 months], the circumstances of the discovery of which were dominated by lymph node syndrome in 43.6% of cases (n=17) followed by a rhinological syndrome in 30.8% of cases (n=13). The tumor stage was T1 for two patients (5.1%), T2 for 8 (20.5%), T3 for 9 (23.1%), T4 for 20 (51.3%), N0 for 2 (5 .1%) N1 for 4 (10.3%), N2 for 28 (71.8%) and N3 for 5 (12.8%). All patients received induction chemotherapy followed by concomitant radiotherapy with cisplatin. The dose of irradiation delivered to the cavum and adenopathies was 66 Gy with fractionation of 2 Gy per session in 69.2% of cases (n=27) and 1.8 Gy in 30.8% of cases (n=12). With a median follow-up of 51 months (15 to 97 months), the locoregional, metastatic, specific, and overall relapse-free survival rates at five years were 91.1%, 73.5%, 66.1%, and 68.4, respectively. Conclusion: Chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatment of cavum cancer in children and adolescents has allowed excellent locoregional control despite the advanced stage of the disease. However, the frequency of metastatic relapses could justify the possible use of systemic maintenance treatment.

Keywords : cancer, nasopharynx, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, survival
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