

Profile of Head and Neck Cancer Patients at Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Dr. Hasan Sadikin General Hospital Bandung

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Abstract

Background: Head and neck cancer is a health problem with a high mortality rate. Head and neck cancer are increasing and effect many individuals from diverse backgrounds. Usually patients come with advanced stages, therefore these conditions could lead to decrease their quality of life. Aim of this study was to describe the profile of head and neck cancer patients at the Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Department, Dr. Hasan Sadikin General Hospital Bandung.

Methods: A descriptive cross-sectional method was used from medical records of head neck cancer patients at Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Dr. Hasan Sadikin General Hospital Bandung from 2008 to 2012 that used the total sampling method.

Results: There were 665 patients included in this study, which men who participated were 388 and women were 277. Most of them were elementary educated (44.96%), housewives (32.03%), and those aged 46–55 years old (28.33%). There were nasopharyngeal (38.20%), sinonasal (17.29%), larynx (13.08%), oropharynx (6.32%), thyroid gland (6.17%), oral cavity (3.91%), hypopharynx (2.41%), and parotid gland (2.26%) cancer. The major histopathological findings were undifferentiated carcinoma (45.41%) and squamous cell carcinoma (22.26%), those were presented with stage I (7.4%), II (13.5%), III (24.4%), and IV (54.7%).

Conclusions: Nasopharyngeal carcinoma was the most predominant cases which majority were presented in advanced stage and major histopathology features was undifferentiated carcinoma, while demographic characteristic mostly were in middle aged and older, men with low education background. [AMJ.2015;2(4):474–9]

Keywords: Head and neck cancer, nasopharyngeal carcinoma, otorhinolaryngology

Introduction

Head and neck cancer is the fifth most common cancer worldwide.¹ New cases of head and neck cancer are reported approximately 650,000 cases worldwide per year with a mortality rate of 350,000 cases per year.² It is increasing in incidence over the past three decades.³ The term of head and neck cancer is usually used to describe all carcinoma arising from upper aerodigestive tract such as sinonasal tract, oral cavity, pharynx, and larynx, usually referred to squamous cell carcinoma due to the predominant histopathology.³ Risk factors for this illness include a history of smoking, passive smoker, exposure to carcinogens,

diet, oral hygiene, infectious diseases such as Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), and Epstein Barr Virus (EBV), family history, and alcohol consumption.^{4,5} Age, gender, race, and social economic status are also important in determining the risk of head and neck cancer.⁶

Head neck cancer is an important health problem. This kind of cancer is usually three to five times more prevalent among men than women. In one study in Brazil⁷ from 427 patients, the most frequent tumor site in our series is the oral cavity (35.37%). A high frequency of head and neck cancer cases is diagnosed at an advanced stage, and the most representative histological type is the squamous cell carcinoma (96.7% of cases). The prognosis for head neck cancer depends

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