

MANAGEMENT OF ORAL SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA AND ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF FAILURE



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Carcinoma of the oral cavity is the second most common form of cancer in India and most of the patients affected are of lower socio-economic status with adverse habits like smoking, tobacco chewing and excessive consumption of alcohol. Usually, by the time patients are examined, the disease will be in a very advanced stage which would necessitate extensive ablative surgery including neck dissection, chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

Despite the advances in surgery and radiotherapy, tumor control and survival remains elusive. Some studies have analyzed the pattern of failure in this group of patients and recurrence at the primary site was found to be the main cause of treatment failure.

Some major prognostic factors have been previously defined mainly based on the information from the neck dissection, but the effect on prognosis is less clear for other clinical parameters which might be useful in determining the likelihood of eradicating the cancer with local regional treatment.

Some individuals have favourable chances to be cured with surgery or radiotherapy while others have poor prognosis with the standard treatment and could perhaps be benefitted from other therapeutic approaches.

Thus the ability to identify different prognostic subgroups of the patients is important if cure rates have to be improved.