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Efficacy and safety of Nimotuzumab with concurrent chemoradiotherapy in unresectable locally advanced squamous cell carcinoma of head and neck: Rural tertiary care hospital experience in India

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Aim: The aim of this study was to evaluate efficacy and safety of nimotuzumab with CCRT in patients with unresectable, locally advanced HNC in rural tertiary care hospital set up in India.

Methods: Hospital records of 24 patients with HNC who were treated with nimotuzumab from June 2009 till April 2017 were evaluated. One patient who underwent surgery was excluded and 23 patients of unresectable, locally advanced (stage III-IVb) HNC with histologically confirmed squamous cell carcinoma who were treated with nimotuzumab were analyzed. Tumor response, overall survival (OS) and association of various dependent factors with tumor response and survival was analyzed. Adverse events (AEs) were analyzed by common terminology criteria for AEs v 4.0.

Results: A total of 23 patients (18 male/5 female, median ages 62 years [IQR 51, 62, 75]) were considered for the analysis. All patients were treated with nimotuzumab 200 mg weekly and CCRT. Tumor response rate at 24 weeks after completion of radiotherapy was as follows: 60.87% (14) patients had complete response, 4.35% (1) had partial response and 34.78% (8) had stable disease. The overall response rate was 65.22% and the clinical benefit rate was 100%. Survival rate at 1 year, 3 years and 5 years was 89.47%, 63.45%, 44.41%, respectively and median OS was 57 months (95% CI, 32.61-81.39). No grade III or grade IV adverse events were observed.

Conclusion: Addition of nimotuzumab to CCRT showed incremental survival benefit in unresectable locally advanced HNC patients than that observed with historical data of conventional CCRT.

Biography

Amit Kumar has completed his MD, Radiotherapy from PMCH-Patna, Patna University followed by Senior Resident in Radiation Oncology at VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi and specialized training at Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai. He has also done clinical trial design, analysis and reporting from Biostatistics Resource and Training Centre, CMC, Vellore.

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