

4th World Congress on Cancer Science & Therapy

October 20-22, 2014 DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Chicago-North Shore Conference Center, USA

Lymph node density is a prognostic factor in Japanese patients with oral squamous cell carcinoma

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Lymph node density (LND) ≥ 0.07 has been reported to be a significant predictor of shorter survival in oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC) patients with positive lymph nodes by a multi-institutional international study. We investigated whether LND ≥ 0.07 is correlated with a shorter overall survival, distant metastasis-free survival and lung metastasis-free survival of Japanese OSCC patients with positive lymph nodes. Fifty Japanese patients newly diagnosed to have OSCC with clinical lymph node metastasis underwent both primary tumor resection and neck dissection without preoperative treatment at our institution. Of these 50 patients, 35 patients with pathologically positive lymph nodes on pathological reports were enrolled in this study. The LND was calculated as the ratio of the number of positive lymph nodes to the number of total lymph nodes. The survival rate was analyzed by the Kaplan-Meier method. Univariate survival analysis was performed using the log-rank test, and a multivariate survival analysis was performed using the Cox proportional hazards model. LND ≥ 0.07 was significantly correlated with a shorter overall survival ($p < 0.02$), distant metastasis-free survival ($p < 0.01$) and lung metastasis-free survival ($p < 0.01$) in univariate analyses. In multivariate survival analysis with adjustment for the pathological stage category (pstageIV/pstageIII) and positive surgical margin and/or extracapsular spread (presence/absence), both LND ≥ 0.07 and the presence of positive surgical margin and/or extracapsular spread were associated a significantly shorter survival. These results suggest that the LND is able to provide a prognostic factor for Japanese OSCC patients.

Biography

Hiddenori Suzuki has completed his MD at the age of 24 years from Shinsyu University and his PhD at the age of 33 years from Nagoya University. He is the Head and Neck Surgery of Aichi Cancer Center Hospital. He has published more than 8 papers in reputed journals.

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