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When would we advocate a total thyroidectomy in cases of hypopharyngeal carcinoma?

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Background & Aim: The incidence of invasion of the thyroid gland by hypopharyngeal carcinomas is reported to be up to 57%. Our aim was to analyze the frequency of thyroid gland invasion in hypopharyngeal carcinoma treated by thyroidectomy with total laryngopharyngectomy and to identify patients in whom preservation of the thyroid gland is oncologically feasible and hence reduces post-operative hypothyroidism.

Patients & Methods: This retrospective cohort study included 58 patients with hypopharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma treated by thyroidectomy with total laryngopharyngectomy at National Cancer Institute, Cairo University between May 1996 and October 2005. Thyroid gland involvement was analyzed through review of charts and pathologic reports. Patients were assessed preoperatively by CT. The correlation between the thyroid gland involvement and the clinical and radiologic CT findings was meticulously examined.

Results: Thyroid gland involvement occurred in 37.9% (22/58) of all patients. T4 hypopharyngeal tumors was present in 29.3% (n=17/58) of patients, paratracheal LN invasion was present in 37.9% (22/58) of patients, thyroid cartilage invasion was obvious in 19% (11/58) of patients, and previous radiotherapy was present in 5.2% (3/58) of patients. All patients with T4 hypopharyngeal tumors (n=17/58) and with thyroid cartilage involvement (n=11/58) had thyroid gland invasion as well. T4 hypopharyngeal tumors, paratracheal LN invasion, and thyroid cartilage invasion were statistically significant factors ($P < 0.001$, $P = 0.009$ and $P < 0.001$ respectively) in independent correlation.

Conclusion: We would advocate a total thyroidectomy in cases of advanced stages hypopharyngeal carcinoma, bilateral tumors, postcricoid carcinoma and in all patients with definite radiological evidence of thyroid gland invasion.

Biography

Zeiad Gad has completed his MBBch from Cairo University, Egypt and now he is a Postgraduate student in the laparoscopic unit of the Surgical Oncology Department, National Cancer Institute, Cairo University. He has published more than 8 papers in reputed journals.

Dinitrosopiperazine-mediated phosphorylated-proteins involve in nasopharyngeal carcinoma metastasis

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N,*N*'-Dinitrosopiperazine (DNP) with specificity for nasopharyngeal epithelium, is involved in nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC) metastasis, and its mechanism is unclear. To reveal the pathogenesis of DNP-involved metastasis, we used immunoprecipitation to identify DNP-mediated phosphoproteins and their function. DNP-mediated NPC cell (6-10B) motility and invasion was confirmed. 27 phosphorylated-proteins were modulated at least 1.5-folds by DNP. Changes in the expression levels of selected proteins were verified by western-blot analysis. DNP mediated the phosphorylated expression of ezrin threonine 567, vimentin serine 55, stathmin serine 25 and stat3 serine 727. Further, DNP-mediated metastasis through ezrin phosphorylation at threonine 567 was confirmed, DNP-mediated metastasis was decreased when ezrin at threonine 567 was mutated. These provide a novel insight into DNP-induced NPC metastasis and may help achieve a better understanding of the mechanisms of NPC high metastasis.

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