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Advanced non small cell lung cancer at the National Cancer Institute in Egypt: A descriptive analysis

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Background: Worldwide, lung cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer and causes more deaths than any other cancer. In Egypt, it accounts for 7% of male cancer and 3% in females. It is considered to be 3rd most common cancer in Egyptian males and 6th most common of both sexes.

Materials & Methods: A total of 99 advanced non-small cell lung cancer patients who underwent first line platinum containing chemotherapy in our institute were included in this study. All clinical and pathological data were collected from patient's files retrospectively between 2012-2014.

Results: All 99 cases were diagnosed at late stage IIIB-IV (59 cases were IIIB). The median age was 54 years (range; 30-70) with 53% of cases are \geq 54 years. 71% were males with male: female ratio of 2.4:1. All male patients were chronic smokers. The most frequent symptom was coughing (68%). Most of the patients had primary lung cancer in the right lung (77%). The most common histological subtype was squamous cell carcinoma (35.4%) with 54 cases present with PS-I, the remain was PS-II. All cases received platinum containing chemotherapy. The majority of cases experienced a progressive disease 60.6%. The median progression free survival (PFS) was 6 months and median overall survival (OS) was 18 months. We found that PS, disease stage, pathological subtypes and response to treatment statistically affects both median OS and PFS. Age affects only OS.

Conclusions: Our analysis suggests that some of the clinico-pathological factors and response to first line platinum containing regimens affect both OS and PFS of advanced NSCLC. This may be beneficial as prognostic markers and further studies were needed to aid in identification and treatment of these patients.

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Oral tuberculosis: The often forgotten entity

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Tuberculosis (TB) is a major global health problem. According to latest WHO Global Health Tuberculosis Report 2015, TB causes ill health among millions of people each year and ranks alongside HIV as a leading cause of death worldwide. In 2014, there were an estimated 9.6 million new TB cases: 5.4 million among men, 3.2 million among women and 1.0 million among children. Of the 9.6 million new TB cases in 2014, 58% were in the South-East Asia and Western Pacific regions. The African Region had 28% of the world's cases in 2014, India, Indonesia and China had the largest number of cases: 23%, 10% and 10% of the global total, respectively. Oral tuberculosis (Oral TB) has been considered to account for 0.1-5% of all TB infections. Primary tuberculosis is extremely rare, secondary tuberculosis is more frequent and often involves the tongue, followed by palate, lips, buccal mucosa, gingiva and frenum. The lesion usually appears in form of ulcers, patches, indurated soft tissue or occasionally within jaw as tuberculosis osteomyelitis. Oral TB can be a diagnostic challenge to the clinician, because of its varied clinical presentation. Hence, a complete physical, radiographic and sputum examination along with anti-tuberculin tests should be done. Biopsy and molecular techniques can also play a crucial role in successful diagnosis of oral TB. This paper highlights few case presentations discussing clinical features, diagnosis, differential diagnosis and treatment modalities for the often forgotten and rare entity the oral TB.

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