

# Overview of Carcinomas in Adolescents: A Descriptive Study Over Twenty Years

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## Abstract

**Purpose:** In adolescents, carcinomas are rare tumors, accounting for 15% to 20% of cancers, with a wide spectrum.

**Methods:** Report of clinical, pathological and genetic characteristics of patients aged 12 to 18 years treated at Gustave Roussy for a carcinoma from 1990 to 2009.

**Results:** 204 adolescents, sex ratio F/M: 140/64, median age 16 years, were identified. Main sites were thyroid (40%, with 67/82 papillary carcinomas) and nasopharynx (20%). Five-year OS and EFS of the whole cohort were respectively 75% (95%CI 0.68-0.80) and 64% (95%CI 0.57-0.71). We identified three risk groups: (1) thyroid and salivary gland carcinomas (5-y OS 100%), (2) nasopharyngeal undifferentiated carcinomas and genital carcinomas (5-y OS 80%), (3) others such as hepatocellular carcinomas, renal carcinomas and squamous cell carcinomas of the oral cavity (5-y OS 24%). A genetic predisposition to cancer was identified in only 9/204 adolescents.

**Conclusion:** Thyroid and nasopharyngeal carcinomas are the most frequent sites and carry a good prognosis whereas squamous cell carcinomas of the oral cavity, hepatocellular carcinomas and non-localized renal carcinomas mostly portend a fatal outcome. International collaborative research between pediatric and medical oncologists is needed to improve the prognosis and to better understand the genetic determinants of these tumors with an unusual onset during adolescence.

**Keywords:** Carcinoma; Epidemiology; Descriptive study; Prognosis; Survival

## Introduction

Whereas most tumors in adults are epithelial tumors, carcinomas are rare in patients under 20 years of age, and account for 9% of all childhood cancers between 10 and 14 years and 20% in patients aged 15-19 years [1,2]. In the SEER (National Cancer Institute's Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results) registry, the carcinoma incidence rate in 2008-2012 was 12 between 10 and 14 years, and 44.6 between 15 and 19 years, per million (age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population) [1].

In children and adolescents, the spectrum of carcinoma sites is different from those in adults in whom breast, colon, prostate and lung cancer account for more than 55% of all cases. Data in children and adolescents are based on registry analyses using the International Classification of Childhood Cancers (ICCC) [3] which identifies 3 main groups of carcinomas: kidney, liver and gonads carcinomas, and one supplementary group for other locations. In this last group, carcinomas are classified into five categories: adrenocortical, thyroid, nasopharyngeal and skin carcinomas, and others including colorectal, salivary, and lung carcinomas [2-6]. Thyroid carcinomas are the most frequent, with an incidence rate of 7.1 and 26.7 per million in patients aged 10-14 and 15-19, respectively. Other locations are much rarer with incidence rates of 1.7, 1.5, 1.3 and 1.1 per million in patients aged 15-19 for hepatic, nasopharyngeal, gonadal and renal carcinomas, respectively.

But in adolescents, these carcinomas may have different characteristics and prognosis from those in adults, leading to different treatment modalities according to age of diagnosis. In order to study in

this population the characteristics of carcinomas, especially initial stage, therapeutic modalities and evolution, and to explore their differences with adults, we reported in this original study all cases of carcinomas in teenagers treated at Gustave Roussy during the last 20 years.

## Patients and Method

All adolescents (age at diagnosis: 12 to 18 years) who had been treated for a carcinoma at Gustave Roussy between January 1, 1990, and December 31, 2009, were included in this study.

Carcinomas were defined as neoplasms derived from epithelial cells with cytokeratin expression by immunohistochemistry (IHC). Choroid plexus carcinomas, choriocarcinomas and embryonal carcinomas were excluded, and are analyzed with brain tumors and germ cell tumors. Melanomas which are not epithelial tumors, even though they are classified in ICCC group XI, were not included.

Pathological reports and clinical data recorded in medical files (gender, date of birth, date of diagnosis, site of the primary tumor,

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lymph node involvement and location of metastases, therapeutic interventions, date and vital status at last contact) were reviewed. When the histological diagnosis of carcinoma (in case of poorly differentiated malignant tumors) was doubtful, available slides were reviewed and additional IHC was performed using an anti-Pan Cytokeratin (AE1/AE3) antibody (Ab) to search for epithelial differentiation, anti-INI1 Ab to rule out a malignant rhabdoid tumor, and a monoclonal NUT Ab to detect NUT midline carcinomas (NMC) [7].

Concerning survival analysis, the main endpoint was overall survival (OS), defined as the time from randomization to death from any cause. The secondary endpoint, event-free survival (EFS), was defined as the time from randomization to progression, recurrence or death from any cause, whichever occurred first. Patients who had no events were censored at the date of last follow-up. Survival curves of PFS and OS according to histological subtype were estimated using the Kaplan-Meier method and differences between groups were tested using the log-rank test.

Clinical, genetic data and counseling recorded in medical files were reviewed in order to unveil arguments in favor of a genetic predisposition. We suspected genetic cancer predisposition in cases with a familial history of cancer or a personal medical history (proband with multiple tumors, developmental abnormalities such as psychomotor retardation, growth retardation, malformation syndrome, >3 café-au-lait spots).

## Results

Between January 1, 1990, and December 31, 2009, 204 adolescents, (sex ratio F/M: 140/64), aged 12 to 18 (median age 16 years), were treated for a carcinoma at Gustave Roussy. The number of cases increased with age (Figure 1).

### Clinical, pathological and outcome characteristics

The main sites were the thyroid (n=82) and head and neck (n=58) which accounted for 69% of all carcinomas. Distribution of primary tumor sites and pathological characteristics of carcinomas are detailed in Table 1 (in 34 cases, additional IHC was performed after slides review because of doubtful diagnosis).

With a median follow-up of 5.7 years, 5 year OS and EFS of the whole series of patients were respectively 74.6% (95% CI 0.68-0.80) and 64.4% (95% CI 0.57-0.71) (Figure 2). We identified three risk groups with different OS (Figure 3): thyroid and salivary gland carcinomas (91 patients, 5-y OS 100%), nasopharyngeal (NPC) and genital carcinomas (62 patients, 5-y OS 79.1%, 95% CI 0.66-0.88), and other carcinomas, including liver, renal and squamous cell carcinomas (SCC) of the oral cavity (51 patients, 5-y OS 24.3%, 95% CI 0.14-0.39).

### Thyroid carcinomas

Eighty-two patients were treated for a papillary (69), follicular (8) and medullary (5) carcinoma. At initial diagnosis, lymph node metastases were present in 57 cases (52 papillary, 3 follicular and 2 medullary) with lung metastases in 6 patients. Risk factors were identified in 7 cases: previous total body irradiation in 3 patients treated for acute leukemia 6 to 9 years before the diagnosis of thyroid carcinoma and multiple endocrine neoplasia (MEN) type 2 with a *RET* mutation in 4 of the 5 patients with medullary carcinoma.

All 25 patients with no loco-regional or distant metastases were free of disease after surgery and (131) I therapy in 13/25 cases with a median follow-up of 7 years (range 0-19). Fifty-seven patients with lymph node involvement associated or not with lung metastases were treated with

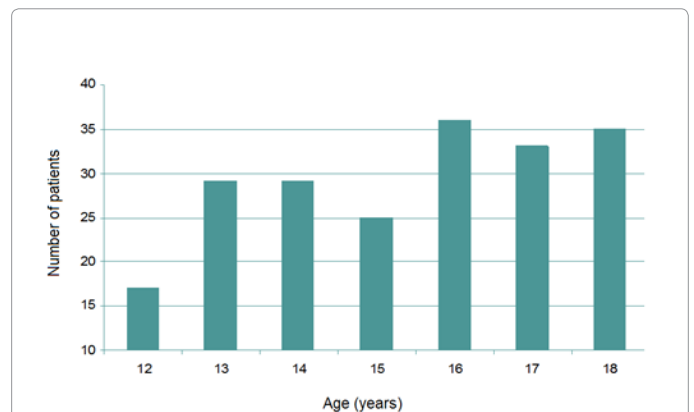


Figure 1: Age at diagnosis of 204 adolescents treated for a carcinoma.

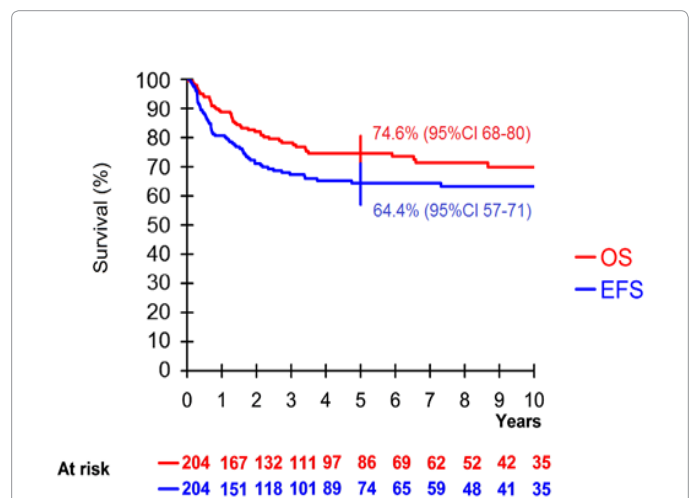


Figure 2: Kaplan-Meier estimates of overall survival (OS) and event free survival (EFS) of whole population.

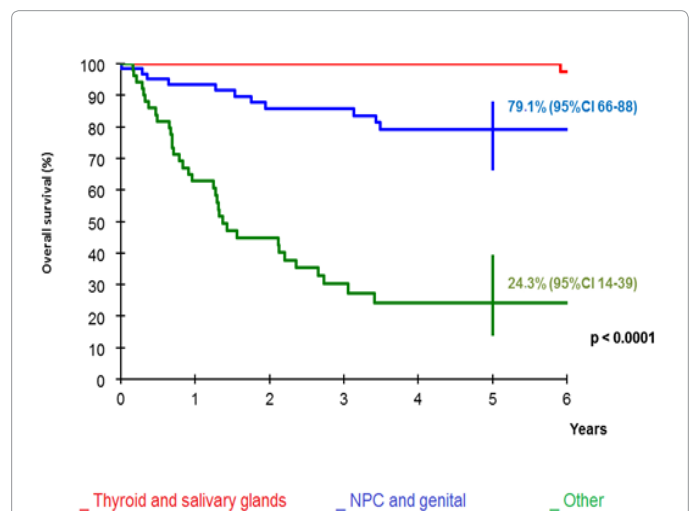


Figure 3: Kaplan-Meier estimates of overall survival (OS) of three risk groups: (i) thyroid and salivary glands, (ii) nasopharyngeal (NPC) and genital tract, (iii) other sites: oral and sinonasal cavity, liver, kidney, skin, digestive tract and other rare locations. P-value is for the log-rank test of comparison of the three risk groups.

surgery (complete thyroidectomy) and (131) I therapy (except 5 cases). Among them, 15 (26%) developed a local or metastatic recurrence after a median interval of 21 months (1 of them had no initial (131) I therapy), and 9 achieved a second complete remission. Five-year EFS was 88.3% (95% CI 0.78-0.94). OS was 100% at 5y and 97% at 10y (95% CI 0.86-0.99). No patient died from progressive disease.

### Head and neck carcinomas

Fifty-eight patients were treated for head and neck carcinomas: 40 NPC, 9 salivary gland carcinomas (7 in the parotid and 2 in accessory salivary glands) and 9 carcinomas of the oral and sinonasal cavity.

**Nasopharyngeal carcinomas:** Neck lymph node metastases were found at the initial diagnosis in 39/40 patients, with mediastinal lymph node extension in one case and bone metastases in other 4 cases. In situ hybridization detection of EBV-encoded RNA (EBER) was performed in 18 cases with positive results in 17/18. All patients were treated with cisplatin-based chemotherapy and radiotherapy. Among the 5 patients with initial distant metastases, only one was free of disease with a follow-up of 5 years. The 35 other patients achieved a first complete response but 7 relapsed (5 in lymph nodes, 2 in bones and 1 in lungs) among whom 5 died from their NPC. Five-year EFS and OS were respectively 69.8% (95% CI 0.53-0.82%) and 76.7 % (95% CI 0.60-0.88%).

**Salivary gland carcinomas:** Two patients had lymph node involvement (1 acinar cell and 1 mucoepidermoid carcinomas). Treatment included surgery in all patients, combined with radiotherapy in 6/9 cases (adenoid cystic carcinoma, lymph node involvement or incomplete surgery). After a median follow-up of 5 years (range 2-15), all patients were free of disease and no recurrence was observed.

**Carcinomas of the oral and sinonasal cavity:** Primary tumor site was the tongue in 7 cases of squamous cell carcinomas, tonsil and maxillary sinus in 2 cases of undifferentiated sinonasal carcinomas (negative for NUT immunohistochemistry). Lymph node involvement was found in 6 of them (all with primary tumor in the tongue). Two patients had inoperable tumor leading to palliative radiotherapy. All the 7 other patients underwent surgery (with partial glossectomy in 3/6 tongue SCC), combined with radiotherapy in 2 cases or chemotherapy in 1 case. Six patients relapsed locally and died in the year after initial diagnosis. The only survivor was treated with preoperative chemotherapy (3 cycles of 5FU-Cisplatinum) with an impressive tumor response before radical surgery (follow-up: 10 years).

**Female genital tract carcinomas:** Twenty-two females were treated for a genital tract carcinoma, of the ovary in 16 and of the cervix or vagina in 6.

Among the 16 patients with ovarian carcinomas, 5 patients (3 clear cell carcinomas, 1 serous carcinoma, 1 Krukenberg tumor) had initial peritoneal carcinomatosis with a fatal outcome in 3 cases despite radical surgery and adjuvant platinum-based chemotherapy. Only one of them was alive and free of disease 14 years later despite one cutaneous recurrence (oophorectomy's scar) treated with surgery, chemotherapy and high dose chemotherapy with autologous stem cell transplantation. Eleven patients had no initial peritoneal spread; all of them had an oophorectomy with, in 3 cases, adjuvant platinum-based chemotherapy (because of lymph node spread or incomplete surgery). One patient died after a peritoneal recurrence of a borderline serous carcinoma whereas the 10 other patients were free of disease.

Among the 6 patients with small cell carcinoma of the vagina or cervix, three patients had retroperitoneal lymph node involvement

(associated with lung metastases in one case): one of them is alive but with progressive disease (4<sup>th</sup> lymph node recurrence 4 years since initial diagnosis) and two died despite radiotherapy (with concomitant platinum-based chemotherapy and surgery in one case). The other 3 patients had no initial dissemination and were alive and free of disease, 7 to 20 years after surgery and brachytherapy. None of them was exposed to diethylstilbestrol during pregnancy.

Five-years EFS and OS of the whole group were respectively 55.5% (95% CI 0.31-0.74) and 75.6% (95% CI 0.54-0.89).

### Liver carcinoma

Seven fibrolamellar hepatocellular carcinomas (FL-HCC) and five common hepatocellular carcinomas (HCC) developed on normal liver (hepatitis B virus negative). Only 2/7 patients with FL-HCC and 1/5 HCC were alive with a follow-up of 47, 77 and 74 months but after multiple recurrences treated with various combined therapies (multiple surgeries, chemotherapy, hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy, inhibitor tyrosine kinase, radiofrequency). The median survival of patients was 26 months (12-78) for FL-HCC and 16.5 months (8-25) for HCC.

### Renal carcinoma

Eight patients were treated for a renal carcinoma, including 4 patients with juvenile clear cell carcinoma associated with the Xp11.2 translocation. Only 2/8 patients (with juvenile clear cell carcinoma and Xp11.2 translocation) had localized disease treated by complete surgery only; they were alive and free of disease with a follow-up of 4 and 5 years. The other 6 patients had lymph node involvement with distant metastases in 4, leading to progressive disease and death with a median survival of 11.5 months (range: 5-16) despite various combined therapies (surgery, chemotherapy, immunotherapy, radiotherapy).

### Other carcinomas

Twenty-two patients were treated for carcinomas at other sites: 6 skin carcinomas, 4 digestive tract carcinomas including 1 colorectal carcinoma (hepatic and peritoneal metastases were present at diagnosis in 3/4 cases leading to a fatal outcome after a median survival of 9 months) and 12 other carcinomas (including 7 NUT negative undifferentiated carcinomas with a fatal course in the 6 patients with initial metastatic disease after a median survival of 8 months, and 3 metastatic adrenocortical carcinomas with a fatal outcome in all cases after a median survival of 9 months).

Staining for INI1 and NUT were performed respectively in 3 and 12 tumors, but no case of malignant rhabdoid tumor or NMC were diagnosed.

### Genetic characteristics

Eighteen patients had a familial history of cancer and/or a personal medical history which led to suspect a genetic predisposition to cancer. A genetic predisposition had been identified in 6 of them (4 *MEN2*, 1 *MITF* mutation, 1 Fanconi anemia). A description of these 18 patients is available in Table 2. Additionally, genetic counseling had been proposed to 26 other patients because of their young age. Among them, 3 patients had a genetic predisposition (1 *TP53* mutation, 2 Gorlin syndromes, also described in Table 2).

### Discussion

Adolescents carcinomas are a rare and heterogeneous tumor group, not previously described in a unique series. Between January 1990 and December 2009, 204 adolescents had been treated for a carcinoma at

	Males	Females	Total (%)
Thyroid			
- Papillary	13	54	67 (32.1)
- Follicular	2	8	10 (4.8)
- Medullary	2	3	5 (2.4)
Head and neck			
- Undifferentiated NPC	22	18	40 (19.1)
- Squamous cell carcinoma	6	3	9 (4.3)
- Mucoepidermoid carcinoma	3	2	5 (2.4)
- Acinar cell carcinoma		2	2 (0.96)
- Adenoid cystic carcinoma	2		2 (0.96)
Genital tract			
- Cervix and vagina			
- Small cell carcinoma		6	6 (2.9)
- Ovary			
- Clear cell carcinoma		6	6 (2.9)
- Serous carcinoma		4	4 (1.9)
- Mucinous carcinoma		4	4 (1.9)
- Endometrioid carcinoma		1	1 (0.48)
- Krukenberg tumour		1	1 (0.48)
Liver			
- FL-HCC	3	4	7 (3.3)
- Common HCC	1	4	5 (2.4)
Kidney			
- Juvenile carcinoma	2	4	6 (2.9)
> with Xp11.2 translocation	2	3	5 (2.4)
- Papillary carcinoma		1	1 (0.48)
- Undifferentiated carcinoma		1	1 (0.48)
Skin			
- Basal cell carcinoma	1	3	4 (1.9)
- Squamous cell carcinoma	1		1 (0.48)
- Hidradenocarcinoma	1		1 (0.48)
Digestive tract			
- Adenocarcinoma (pancreas, colon)	2		2 (0.96)
- Squamous cell carcinoma (esophagus)	1		1 (0.48)
- Undifferentiated (cardia)	1		1 (0.48)
Adrenal cell carcinoma	1	2	3 (1.4)
Soft tissue undifferentiated carcinoma		3	3 (1.4)
Lung undifferentiated carcinoma	1	1	2 (0.96)
Peritoneal adenocarcinoma		1	1 (0.48)
Breast : secretory carcinoma		1	1 (0.48)
Undifferentiated carcinoma of unknown primary		2	2 (0.96)
Total	65	139	204 (100)
NPC: Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma; FL-HCC: Fibrolamellar Hepatocellular Carcinoma; HCC: Hepatocellular Carcinoma			

**Table 1:** Pathological characteristics of adolescent carcinomas.

Gustave Roussy, a comprehensive cancer center for childhood and adult malignancies.

Main sites were thyroid, head and neck and female genital tract. This site distribution presents few differences compared to the US SEER registry data [8] as well as to the French epidemiology report [9], with over-representation of nasopharyngeal carcinomas (NPC) and gynecologic tumors compared to thyroid carcinomas. In SEER registry, thyroid carcinoma incidence rate is 15 fold higher than NPC and gonadal carcinomas [1], whereas in our series, 82 thyroid carcinomas, 40 NPC and 22 genital tract carcinomas were reported.

This might be due to different ethnic group repartition, population structure, sex ratio rate and environmental exposures. For example, nasopharyngeal carcinomas (NPC) rate which varies greatly according to ethnic origin [10,11], was much higher in our series, probably due to different population representativeness. Over-representation of NPC as well as gynecologic tumors might also be explained by the renowned expertise of the Head and Neck and Gynecologic Surgery Departments at our institution. Over-representation of these two carcinoma types might participate to the relative under-representation of thyroid carcinomas. Further, since the discovery of germinal RET mutations in 1993; screening and treatment (total thyroidectomy) of gene carriers in NEM2A families are performed earlier during childhood that reduces medullary thyroid carcinoma incidence in adolescence.

Main types of carcinomas had good prognosis, with 100% 5-y OS for thyroid and salivary gland carcinomas and 79.1% 5-y OS for NPC and female genital tract carcinomas. These outcomes were similar than previously reported in literature.

Five-years EFS and OS rates of thyroid carcinomas were 88.3% and 100% respectively, comparable to that reported by the SEER registry (98% 5-y OS and 91% 30-y OS) [12]. Histology distribution and distant metastasis rate were also similar, but lymph node involvement was more frequent in our series (68% vs. 46.4%) which may be related to lymph node dissection routinely performed in our institution. Even if the number of cases with distant metastases (6/82) was much too low to drive any conclusion, they are predictive of a worst outcome with a significant higher risk of cancer related death that may occur several decades after the initial diagnosis [13].

Concerning NPC, survival was quite similar to those previously reported (76.5% 5y-OS vs. 71-81%) [14-17]. The main indicator for poor prognosis was distant metastases which were present in only 12% of cases as compared to 2.7% to 27% in previous series. It is noteworthy that, compared with adults [18], adolescents NPC have more advanced stages (92% vs. 67% Stage III-IV) but significantly better overall survival (71% vs. 58% 5y-OS).

Nevertheless, with 5-y EFS of 64.4%, the overall outcome of adolescent carcinomas was worst in our series than in previous published data of registries (~ 80% in SEER registry), which might be due to recruitment bias and over-representation of poor prognosis carcinomas. Indeed, adolescents with hepatic, renal and squamous cell carcinomas (SCC) of the oral cavity had 5-y OS of 24.3%. For example, in our series, 12 patients were treated for liver carcinomas with very poor prognosis (20% 3y-OS) whereas in SIOPEL trials 3y-OS was 42% for FL-HCC and 33% for HCC [19]. In the same way, only 2/8 patients with renal cell carcinomas were alive and free of disease: only these two patients had localized disease and consequently could benefit of radical nephrectomy with clear margins [20,21]. In hepatic as well as in renal carcinomas, surgery is the cornerstone treatment. And only patients with localized disease and sufficient local control have been cured.

Local control is also of great importance in carcinomas of oral and sinonasal cavities, in which the main indicator for poor prognostic was advanced stage disease at diagnosis. Indeed, only patients with localized, completely resectable tumors have been successfully treated: 1/9 SCC of oral cavity. However, in previous studies, survival rates of oral cavity SCC were higher: 70% 5y-OS in the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre series (10 tongues SCC, 3/10 with lymph node involvement) [22] and 75.3% 5y-OS in the SEER series (54 oral cavities SCC, 40% with lymph node spread) [23]. Lower OS may be explained in our series by more frequent lymph node involvement at diagnosis and the absence of radical surgery in most patients. SCC of oral cavity



N°	Diagnosis		Personal medical history					Familial medical history		Genetic predisposition
	Carcinoma	Age (years)	Other tumors	Malformations	Growth retardation	Psychomotor retardation	Other pathologies	First degree relatives	Second degree relatives	
1	Adrenal cell carcinoma	15								TP53
2	SCC of tongue	13		facial dysmorphism	+	+	Angelman syndrome			
3	SCC of tongue	18					Fanconi anemia, allogenic SCT 7y before			Fanconi anemia
4	MEC	15	Hodgkin lymphoma, autologous SCT 8y before						Testicular GCT in paternal grand father (28y)	
5	NPC	13					Multipile hypopigmented lesions			
6	NPC	15					Sickle cell trait			
7	NPC	16	Triple negative breast cancer 20y later				Multipile melanocytic nevi			
8	Renal undifferentiated carcinoma	13							Breast cancer in maternal grand mother (48y)	
9	RCC Xp11.2	16						Breast cancer and melanoma in mother (50y - 58y)		MITF
10	RCC Xp11.2	17	Rhabdomyosarcoma of bladder/prostate 15y before					Breast cancer in mother (50y)		
11	FL-HCC	14			+					
12	Common HCC	16					Delayed puberty			
13	Follicular TC	13	Acute leukemia, TBI and allogenic SCT 6y before							
14	Follicular TC	15	Acute leukemia, TBI and allogenic SCT 9y before							
15	Papillary TC	12	Acute leukemia, TBI and allogenic SCT 6y before							
16	Medullary TC	16	Pheo. 10y later							MEN 2B
17	Medullary TC	17	Synchronous Pheo.							MEN 2B
18	Medullary TC	14						Medullary TC in mother		MEN 2A
19	Medullary TC	18						Medullary TC in mother		MEN 2A
20	Basal cell carcinoma	13								Gorlin Syndrome
21	Basal cell carcinoma	18								Gorlin Syndrome

**Table 2:** Patients' description with suspected or detected genetic predisposition of cancer.

are rare in adolescents, but only convincing treatment according to guidelines in adults [22] could be efficient in such poor prognosis diseases. Adolescents with oral SCC have not better prognosis than adults, and consequently they need optimal treatment with complete surgery, even if sequelae are more important.

If surgery was very important in local control of adolescents' carcinomas, their poor prognosis was counter-balanced by the slow progression rate in few patients, leading to long survival, especially in hepatic carcinomas. Indeed 3 patients with liver carcinomas experienced long survival despite multiple recurrences with multimodal treatments, including surgery, chemotherapy, inhibitor tyrosine kinase and radiofrequency, showing the relevance of convincing surgery and

additional therapy in liver carcinoma [24].

Treatment modalities should be discussed in multidisciplinary teams including adults' and pediatric oncologists and surgeons. Guidelines published for adults should be followed in these poor prognosis adult-type carcinomas, but because of different evolution and potential very long survivors, convinced treatment could be used in case of relapses.

If in predominant adult breast and colon carcinomas, early onset tumors are often associated with a genetic predisposition, in our series, only 9 patients had been diagnosed with cancer predisposing syndromes (4 *MEN2*, 2 Gorlin syndromes, 1 Fanconi anemia,

1 *TP53* mutation, 1 *MITF* mutation) [25]. However, it is noteworthy that genetic counseling had been offered to only 44 patients. Given the rarity of these cancers in this age group, it is probably worth proposing genetic counseling to all adolescents with carcinomas in order to study the familial history of cancer, to look for associated abnormalities, to propose performing targeted tests based on clinical presentation and to bank DNA for future research when there is no obvious targeted test. Pediatric oncologists are not well aware of these targeted tests, consequently, genetic counseling seems to be necessary to determine which test is appropriate for which patient (*PTEN* and *RET* in thyroid cancer, *VHL* and *MITF* in renal carcinoma, *PTCH* in basal cell carcinoma, *APC* in polyposis, colon and liver carcinoma, *MMR* in colon carcinoma and other carcinomas of the Lynch syndrome of tumor spectrum...) [26-29]. Since *TP53* mutations are associated with an excess risk of carcinomas, systematic screening of *TP53* could be proposed but such systematic screening should probably be included in research protocols since childhood and adolescent carcinomas without familial history of cancer or multiple primary tumors are not included in the classic criteria for *TP53* testing (except adrenocortical carcinoma or choroid plexus tumor, in which *TP53* testing is always recommended irrespective of family history) [30].

In summary, adolescent carcinomas are rare tumors, which spectrum differs from their adult counterparts, and with a wide range of prognoses. Thyroid and nasopharyngeal carcinomas are the most frequent lesions carrying a good prognosis, while squamous cell carcinomas of the oral cavity, renal carcinomas and hepatocellular carcinomas have poorer prognosis. International collaborative research between pediatric and adult oncologists is needed to improve prognosis and to better understand genetic determinants of these tumors with an unusual onset during childhood or adolescence.

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