

Clinical pathological evaluation and risk factors of oral cancer cases of east coast of peninsular Malaysia

Content

Introduction: Oral cancer is one of the common cancers in Malaysia. The population of east coast of Peninsular Malaysia has a different lifestyle and Malay is the predominant race. Oral cancer research in this area started since the Malaysian National Oral Cancer group was established.

The aim: of this study is to evaluate the clinical pathological findings and to investigate the role of tobacco smoking, alcohol consumption and betel quid chewing as the risk factors among oral cancer cases in east coast of peninsular Malaysia. Materials and Methods: Fifty case records of only treated/operated cases of patients with oral cancer between 1994-2003 in Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia were reviewed. This study is based on a questionnaire developed by the Malaysian National Oral Cancer group. The data analysed includes personal information and clinical pathological findings.

Results: Patients' age range was between 27-97 years old. The male to female ratio was 1.4:1. Malays ethnic group has the highest incidence of oral cancer (n=46). Out of 50 cases, 80% were new cases and 66% was squamous cell carcinoma of the oral mucosa. Data revealed 12 different sites of lesions and the highest frequency was on buccal mucosa (30%) with 75% neck node involvement while 12% of the patients have two sites of lesions. Distant metastases occurred in 76.9% of the cases. Tobacco smoking was found to be the predominant risk factor (54%) while 24% of patients were found to be quid chewer. Only 8% of patients consumed alcohol. The remaining 14% patients do not admit any of the risk factors and the author would contribute their etiology to viruses.

Conclusion: The most common site of oral cancer was buccal mucosa with 75% neck node involvement. Presence of distant metastasis can be witnessed on most cases. More than half cases were new cases. Tobacco smoking exceeded betel nut chewing as a probable risk factor among the subjects.

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