

Primary Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma of the Larynx

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Objectives

Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma rarely involve the larynx. Early symptoms are subtle and nonspecific, and confirmation of the diagnosis is often difficult. In this study, we reviewed patients with the diagnosis of lymphoma involving the larynx retrospectively.

Materials & Methods

This study from January 1997 to December 2007 of patients with the diagnosis of lymphoma involving the larynx was retrospectively reviewed. There were 6 patients between aged 17 and 68 years (4 male and 2 female). We analyzed the chief complaint, site of tumor, cell type, systemic involvement, treatment modality and outcome.

Result

Most of them complained subtle symptoms such as foreign body sensation and dysphagia. Fiberoptic examination showed diverse feature from mass lesion to smooth soft tissue swelling involving the supraglottis. On histologic examination of the biopsy specimen, there were mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue lymphoma (MALT) in 2 cases, Mantle cell lymphoma

in 2 cases, NK/T cell lymphoma in 1 case, Angiocentric T-cell lymphoma in 1 case. In 4 cases, there was no systemic involvement by the lymphoma. These patients were treated with multiagent chemotherapy and radiotherapy and developed a complete response to therapy. But in Angiocentric T cell lymphoma patient, tumor recurrence was detected in nasopharynx after 3 years. In NK/T cell lymphoma patient, there was appendix involvement and he expired after 3 weeks in diagnosis. And in the other patient, tumor was detected in multiple sites (skin, stomach, lower extremity) and in ongoing chemotherapy.

Conclusion

The early symptoms of laryngeal NHL are usually subtle and easily neglected. Localized lymphoma in larynx showed good response for chemotherapy and radiotherapy but comparing with the B-cell lymphomas, T-cell and T/NK-cell lymphomas in general, and in the larynx, are aggressive and carry a grave prognosis. And early detection and aggressive therapy should be considered in laryngeal NHL.