

Tracheal Tumors: 15-Yr experience in SNUH

Youngjin Ahn, J. Hun Hah, Tack-Kyun Kwon, Myung-Whun Sung, Kwang Hyun Kim

Department of otorhinolaryngology, Seoul National University, College of medicine

Tracheal tumors occur infrequently, accounting for less than 0.05% of all malignancies. One third of them are squamous cell carcinoma, another third is adenoid cystic carcinoma and the remainders are composed of various benign and malignant pathologies. The presentation of primary tumors of the trachea is variable, of which, dyspnea was found to be the most frequent symptom. From Jan 1992 through Dec 2006, 34 tracheal tumors were diagnosed and treated in Seoul National University hospital. Fourteen of them were benign, and they were comprised of various pathologies including 3 papillomas and 2 hemangiomas. Although the pathology varies, their clinical presentations are similar as most of them presented with the symptoms and signs of upper airway obstruction. Among the 20 malignancies, 11 were squamous cell carcinomas(SCC) and 6 were adenoid cystic carcinomas(ACC). SCC occurred in older age and showed male preponderance(M:F, 8:3 in SCC, 2:4 in ACC) compared to ACC. SCC seemed to show better prognosis compared to ACC but was not statistically significant($P=0.404$). When adopting the Bhattacharyya's staging system, survival was significantly worse in advanced stages($P=0.038$). 3 SCC's were transformed from recurrent respiratory papillomatosis(RRP), so possibility of malignancy should not be overlooked in RRP patients.