Abstract:

Purpose To investigate the prognostic significance of standardized uptake value (SUV) of metastatic neck lymph nodes measured on FDG PET/CT in patients with stage IV oro/hypopharyngeal cancers treated by definitive chemoradiotherapy (CCRT). Methods Retrospective analysis of 65 patients with clinically N+ stage IV SCC of the oro/hypopharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) who underwent FDG PET/CT scans for primary staging. Follow-up continued till death or at least 24 months from the start of treatment. The primary study endpoint was neck control (NC). The log-rank test and Cox proportional hazard analysis were used to identify significant prognostic factors. Results The 3-year NC rate was 53%. In univariate analysis, N3 status and nodal SUV ≥ 9.8 were significantly associated with reduced NC. In multivariable analyses, nodal SUV retained its independent prognostic significance as a predictor of NC. Lymph node stage was an independent predictor of disease specific survival (DSS). A prognostic scoring system was constructed as follows: score 0 = N0-N2 and nodal SUV

Keywords:

Neck lymph nodes FDG PET SUV Hypopharynx Oropharynx Prognosis Concomitant chemoradiotherapy

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