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SIDE EFFECTS IN HEAD AND NECK CANCER PATIENTS

RECEIVING CHEMOTHERAPY AND RADIOTHERAPY – A REVIEW

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Email: <u>serviceheb@gmail.com</u> , <u>drsabarigirinathan@yahoo.co.in</u> ABSTRACT:

Head and Neck Cancer (HNC) patients pose a unique challenge in oncology due to its intricacy in anatomical location and its potential impact on vital functions such as swallowing, speaking and breathing. Chemotherapy and Radiotherapy remains a pivotal role in the management of HNC, which offers considerable improvements in survival rates and disease control. However efficacy of these treatment modalities comes with a price- a spectrum of side effects that imparts a potential impact on the patients quality of life and treatment outcomes. This article deals with a comprehensive review of the multifaceted side effects experienced by head and neck cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy and radiotherapy. This article aims to equip the healthcare providers with a deeper understanding of challenges faced by head and neck cancer patients during their treatment journey.

Keywords: Radiation Mucositis, Xerostomia, Dysphagia, Osteoradionecrosis, Dermatitis, Weight Loss, Fatigue, Nutritional Changes.

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