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Comparing Induction Chemotherapy Followed By Concurrent Chemo-radiotherapy With Concurrent Chemo-Radiotherapy Alone In Locally Advanced Head And Neck Cancer-A Prospective Comparative Study

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: From a therapeutic point of view, the head and neck cancer site is a challenging region of the body. Concurrent chemotherapy with radiotherapy usually remains the standard protocol for these patients. But even with these aggressive approaches more than 50 – 60% patients fail the treatment and have local recurrences and in some cases develop distant metastasis.**Aims and Objective:** This study aimed to evaluate the feasibility and efficacy of induction chemotherapy in addition to concurrent chemo-radiation and to compare it with concurrent chemoradiation alone in locally advanced squamous cell carcinoma of head and neck.**Materials and Methods:** The duration of the study was from August 2020 to March 2022, a total of 140 patients, with locally advanced Head and Neck cancer (stageIII and IV),which were divided into Arm A(Study Arm) and Arm B(Control Arm).**Results:** In Arm A, the complete response at primary site was seen in 17(48.57%) patients, partial response in 14(40%) patients while stable disease was seen in 3(8.57%) and progressive disease in 1(2.85%) patients. While in Arm B,13(37.14%) showed complete response at primary site, partial response at primary site was seen in 17(48.57%), stable disease in 5(14.28%) patients and no patient showed progressive disease.While comparing the nodal site response between two arms, in Arm A, complete response was seen in 25(71.42%) patients, partial response in 3(8.57%), stable disease in patients, 5(14.28%) patients, and progressive disease in 2(5.71%) patients respectively. In Arm B, complete response over the nodal site was seen in 10 (28.57%) patients, partial response in 20(57.14%) patients, stable disease in 5(14.28%) patients and no patient had on progressive diseases. **Conclusion**: To sum up, induction chemotherapy reduces the tumor load before the start of the loco regional treatment. From our study we observed that nodal site had better complete response.

Keywords: induction chemotherapy, Concurrent chemo-radiotherapy Complete primary Response, complete nodal Response.

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