

Sensitivity and specificity of modified Beaty risk factors for patients underwent tonsillectomy in Hospital Ampang

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Routine histopathological examination (HPE) for all tonsillectomy specimens had been a long debate for the cost-effectiveness, manpower-consumption and its low incidence of unexpected malignancy. Based on Beaty criteria in 1996, we developed a modified criteria as a guidance to assess the risk factors for tonsil malignancy which is more suitable for Malaysian population. The objective of this study is to determine the sensitivity and specificity of the modified criteria. **Methods:** A cross-sectional study was performed with a total of 360 tonsillectomy cases were recruited from March 2017 to February 2020 in Hospital Ampang. Tonsil specimens were selected for histopathological examination (HPE) based on the modified Beaty criteria. Patients with tonsil specimens sent for HPE were reviewed in 2 weeks, while patients without sent tonsil specimens were reviewed in 1, 3, 6, 12 months postoperatively to assess any signs of malignancy. **Results:** The mean age of the study population was 16 years old with an equal distribution of the gender. Common indication for tonsillectomy was chronic tonsillitis. Only n=23 (6.4%) of cases were due to suspicious malignancy. Ninety-six (26.6%) out of 360 tonsillectomies were selected for HPE with 1 case (0.3%) reported as malignancy (1% sensitivity). Among the risk factors, family history of malignancy had the highest number (8%) followed by family history of blood dyscrasia (3.3%), smoking (2.5%), cervical lymphadenopathy (0.8%), consumed alcohol (0.3%) and betel nut chewers (0.3%). HPE were not sent for n=264 (73.4%) and all of them were healthy with no malignancy-related symptoms during the first-year follow-up (100% specificity). **Conclusion:** The proposed modified Beaty criteria was very specific but lack of sensitivity in assessing the risk of tonsil malignancy. However, the results should be treated with caution as longer study duration and higher number of study participants are needed for better assessment of its sensitivity and specificity.

Epidemiology and clinicopathological features of patients with oral squamous cell carcinoma seen at a tertiary referral centre in Sarawak

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC) is a debilitating disease with high mortality and morbidity despite advances in treatment strategies. Globally, approximately two-thirds of new cases occurred in men and around 77% of deaths were in less-developed nations. There is currently very limited data on the epidemiology and clinicopathological features of OSCC patients from the state of Sarawak. **Methods:** A cross-sectional retrospective study of patients diagnosed with primary OSCC over a 5-year period from 2015 to 2019 was undertaken as part of a larger study. Data such as age, sex, ethnicity, habits, site, staging and survival were retrieved and analysed. **Results:** Fifty-four patients fulfilled the selection criteria. Mean age at diagnosis was 60.83 years (SD = 12.21) and 63.0% of patients were females. In this cohort of patients, 27.8% were Chinese, 24.1% were Bidayuh, 22.2% were Malay, 20.4% were Iban while the remaining patients were from other ethnicities. Twenty-two patients (40.7%) had a history of smoking tobacco products, 15 patients (27.8%) had a history of alcohol consumption and 22 patients (40.7%) had a history of betel-quid chewing. Eleven patients (20.4%) had a history of smoking and chewing betel-quid. Six patients (11.1%) had a history of smoking, chewing betel-quid and alcohol consumption. The tongue was the most frequently encountered tumour site (42.6%) followed by buccal mucosa (25.9%) and alveolar ridge / gingiva (25.9%). The majority of patients (70.4%) presented with late-stage disease (Stage III or IV). Fifty-percent of the tumours were histologically graded as being well-differentiated OSCC. Forty-one patients (75.9%) had some form of surgery as part of their treatment and nine (16.7%) had adjuvant therapy as well. **Conclusion:** Our study has elucidated the epidemiology and clinicopathological features of OSCC patients seen at a tertiary centre in Sarawak. Some differences were seen between OSCC patients from Sarawak and West Malaysia.