



CLINICAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC PRESENTATION IN PATIENTS DIAGNOSED WITH PANCREATIC CANCER AT A TERTIARY CARE CENTRE OF NORTH INDIA.

Oncology

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ABSTRACT

Pancreatic cancer constitutes 1.04% of all cancers in India.

AIM: In the present study we intend to study the clinical presentation and demographic profile of the patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

MATERIAL AND METHODS: Patients of pancreatic cancer, who were registered at our department from January 2013 till 31st August 2017, were enrolled for this study. Patient's demographic and clinical presentation data was collected and was analysed using SPSS statistics 17.0 software.

RESULT: Median age of patient was 50 years. Male to female ratio was 3:2. Pain was the most common presenting symptom followed by loss of appetite and weight loss. The most common site of origin was Pancreatic head. 34.6% of patients presented at metastatic stage with liver as the most common site of metastases.

KEYWORDS

Pancreatic Cancer, India, Clinical, Demographic Profile.

INTRODUCTION

Pancreatic cancer constitutes 1.04% of all cancers in India. But it has high mortality rate due to aggressive nature of the disease. Total number of new cases and deaths were 10860 and 10528, respectively according to GLOBOCON 2018 data [1]. In the present study we intend to assess the clinical presentation and demographic profile of the patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer at the tertiary care centre of North India.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Patients of Pancreatic carcinoma, who were registered at department of radiotherapy and oncology at Maulana Azad Medical College and Lok Nayak Hospital from January 2013 till 31st August 2017, were enrolled for this study.

Patients who were included in this study were those who had histologically proven, chemotherapy naïve pancreatic carcinoma. Patients with refractory or relapsed disease status at the time of presentation or who had history of chemotherapy/ radiotherapy were excluded from this study.

Structured data included information about patient's demographic profile and clinical presentation. The data was represented as absolute number, percentage and median (range: minimum to maximum), whichever applicable. The descriptive statistics was derived from SPSS statistics 17.0 software.

RESULTS

Total of 52 patients were enrolled in the study that were registered in our department from 01 January 2013 till 31st August 2017. Pattern of male predominance was seen after the statistical analysis. Observed male to female ratio was 3:2. Median Age of presentation was 50 years (range: 16 to 72 years). The youngest age of presentation was 16 years. There were total of 15 patients (28.8%) aged 40 or less. Maximum incidence was seen in 5th and 6th decade of life (Figure 1). Among the study subjects the median height was 165.5cm (Range: 145-187 cm), median weight was 49 Kg (Range: 26 – 75 Kg) and median value of body surface area was 1.56 sqm (Range: 1.08-1.94).

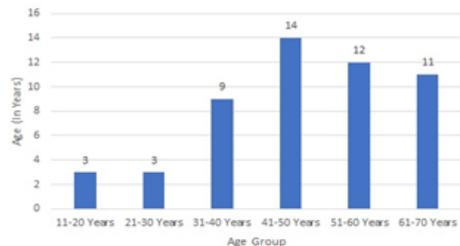


Figure 1: Number of patients in different age group.

There was only one patient with the history of gastric cancer related death in the family. The addiction to tobacco and alcohol was seen in 40.4% and 21.2% of patients, respectively. Among the study group 44.2% subjects were vegetarian while 55.8% patients were non-vegetarian in diet.

On evaluation of medical history 25% of subjects had diabetes mellitus (DM), 11.5 % patients had Hypertension (HTN) and two patients had history of tuberculosis, for which they completed the anti-tubercular therapy. No patient was seropositive for HBsAg, HCV or HIV.

Pain (76.9%) was the most common presenting symptom followed by loss of appetite (75%) and weight loss (75%). Jaundice was present in 51.9% of patient. Other common presenting complaints were vomiting and fever. However only 3 out of 52 patients (5.8%) presented with the features of intestinal obstruction.

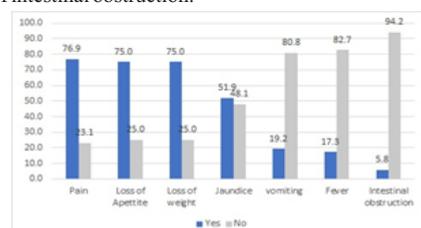


Figure 2: Bar diagram showing the pattern of clinical symptoms at the time of presentation.

Pancreatic head (71.2%) was the most common sub-site of primary origin followed by Body (23.1%) and Tail (5.8%). Histopathologic pattern revealed that moderately differentiated adenocarcinoma was the most common pattern of occurrence constituting 76.9% of total. Other histopathologic variants are shown in Table 1.

65.4 % patients presented with localised disease while 34.6 % patients presented with metastases. Liver was the most common site of metastases followed by para-aortic lymph nodes and Omentum.

Table 1: Patient Characteristics

	Number	(%)
Age (years)		
Median	50	
Range	16 to 72	
Gender		
Male	31	59.6
Female	21	40.4
Height (cm)		
Median	165.5	
Range	145-187	
Weight (Kg)		
Median	49	
Range	(26-75)	
BSA (sqm)		
Median	1.56	
Range	(1.08-1.94)	
Family History		
Cancer related death	1	1.9
Similar Diagnosis	0	0
Addiction		
Tobacco	21	40.4
Alcohol	11	21.2
Diet		
Vegetarian	23	44.2
Non-Vegetarian	29	55.8
Medical History		
TB	2	3.8
HTN	6	11.5
DM	13	25
HIV	0	0
HBsAg	0	0
HCV	0	0
Presenting complaints		
Jaundice	27	51.9
Pain	40	76.9
Vomiting	10	19.2
Loss of Appetite	39	75
Loss of Weight	39	75
Fever	9	17.3
Upper-intestinal Obstruction	3	5.8
Subsite of Pancreas		
Head	37	71.2
Body	12	23.1
Tail	3	5.8
Histopathology		
WD Adenocarcinoma	2	3.8
MD Adenocarcinoma	40	76.9
PD Adenocarcinoma	1	1.9
Mucin Secreting Adeno.	3	5.8
Pseudopapillary Ca.	2	3.8
Acinar Cell Carcinoma	1	1.9
NET	3	5.8
T Stage		
T1	2	3.8
T2	16	30.8
T3	25	48.1
T4	9	17.3
N Stage		
Clinical N+	15	28.8
pN0	21	40.4
pN1	16	30.8
M stage		
M0	34	65.4
M1	18	34.6

Site of Metastases		
Liver	17	32.7
Omentum	2	3.8
Para-aortic Nodes	3	5.8

DISCUSSION

Cigarette smoking [2], heavy alcohol consumption [3] and diabetes mellitus [4] are known risk factors for pancreatic cancer. In our study group only 25 percent of patients had diabetes mellitus and tobacco and alcohol consumption was seen in 40.4 % and 21.2 percent patients, respectively.

In this study the average age of patient was 50 years. The ratio of Male to female preponderance was noted to be 3:2. Pain was the most common presenting symptom followed by loss of appetite and weight loss. The most common site of origin was common Pancreatic head. 34.6% of patients presented at metastatic stage with liver as he most common site of metastases.

CONCLUSION

Our institutional observation suggests that periampullary carcinoma is commonly seen in fifth and sixth decade of life with males having greater propensity of developing this disease by 1.5 times more than females. Pain, loss of appetite and weight loss are the most common presenting complaints. 34.6 % patients presented with metastatic disease with liver being the most common site of metastatic involvement. Post-operative findings suggest that moderately differentiated adenocarcinoma is most common histopathology observed in these patients and pancreatic head being the most common site of primary origin of this disease.

Due to small number of study subjects, the data presented may not be a true representation of entire population. However due to lack of epidemiological data of pancreatic cancer from north India, more number of studies with greater patient population is warranted to better define patient's demographic and clinical profile.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author declares that he has no competing interests.

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