

Neuroendocrine carcinoma of the esophagus: single-center experience of 5 cases

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Introduction

Neuroendocrine carcinomas of the esophagus are very rare tumors, aggressive and with poor prognosis, most cases presenting with distant metastases at diagnosis. With approximately 300 cases described in the literature, there is no defined staging system or optimal treatment approach, although surgical resection combined with neoadjuvant/adjuvant chemotherapy or radiotherapy seems to be effective.

Material / Methods

We report 5 cases of neuroendocrine carcinoma of the esophagus, diagnosed between the years 2012-2015 at our institution.

Results

Table 1. Patient Characteristics

Age, mean	58,8	
Male/Female	4/1	80%/20%
Symptoms		
Dysphagia	4	80%
Weight loss	3	60%
Thoracic Pain	1	20%
Epigastric Pain	1	20%
Early satiety	1	20%
Asymptomatic	1	20%

Table 2. Tumor Characteristics

Location of Primary Tumor		
Middle Third	2	40%
Lower Third	3	60%
Tumor characteristics		
G3	5	100%
Small-cell	3	60%
Large-cell	2	40%
cTNM Stage		
IIb	1	20%
IIIb	1	20%
IV	3	60%
Treatment		
Chemoradiation + Surgery (Ivor-Lewis)	2	40%
NA	3	60%
ypTNM Stage		
Ila	1	
IIIa	1	

Table 3. Vital Statistics and Survival

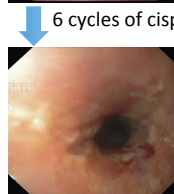
Alive (n=1)	
Stage IIa	2y7m
Dead (n=4)	
Stage IV (n=3), mean	45d
Stage IIIa (n=1)	1y6m

Case 1

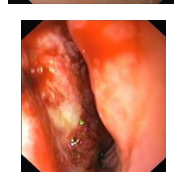
- 49-year-old male
- Symptoms: early satiety, dysphagia, weight loss



- EGD - lower third tumor
- Biopsy: NEC, G3
- cTNM: T3N2



6 cycles of cisplatin + etoposide + radiation



- R0 Surgery - ypT1bN2

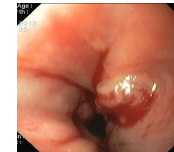
8 months

- Gastric recurrence
- Palliative Chemotherapy

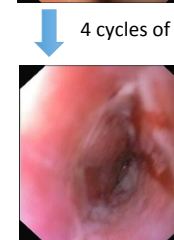
Died 1 year after surgery
Overall Survival 1y 6 months

Case 2

- 56-year-old female
- Symptoms: epigastric pain, dysphagia



- EGD - middle third tumor
- Biopsy: NEC, G3
- cTNM: T2N1



4 cycles of cisplatin + etoposide + radiation

- R0 Surgery - ypT2N0

Alive, without signs of disease recurrence
Overall Survival 2y 7 months
(1y 11 months after surgery)

Discussion / Conclusion

Esophageal neuroendocrine carcinomas are aggressive tumors with high rates of distant metastasis and poor prognosis. We report our experience of 5 patients with this very rare type of esophageal carcinoma and the successful treatment of a patient exhibiting a disease free survival of 2 years. With such rare disease, patients benefit from the acquired knowledge and experience of specialized centers.