

Report of the single institute experience in treating head and neck cancer with hyperthermia and radiation as well as chemo-radiation

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Cancer accounts for 8 percent of death in India. Nearly 200,000 patients of new head and neck cancers are diagnosed in India. The overall survival of head and neck cancer has remained stable over 45-47% depending on race, socio-economic background and country. Organ sparing surgical techniques, and organ preserving approaches in the management of head and neck cancer are routinely practiced even in India. Hyperthermia despite being useful has not been a routinely available modality. At ACRO – Advanced Centre for Radiation Oncology of Nanvati Hospital, Mumbai, India, patients are offered hyperthermia as an adjunct to chemo-radiation or radiotherapy alone in all Stage of II-IV head and neck cancers, excluding that of Nasopharynx.

The present report will include the outcome of patients treated with hyperthermia and chemo-radiation as well as radiation therapy alone. The report will also include the data on a randomized trial of head and neck cancer to compare radiation with hyperthermia and radiation alone. More than 300 patients have been treated with hyperthermia alone so far. Hyperthermia is delivered by 8.2 MHz RF system and radiation with 5 Mv linear accelerator with or without IMRT, or on telecobalt equipment.