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Survival in Head and Neck Cancer Patients Received Oral Examination

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Objectives To evaluate the overall survival (OS) and the prognostic factors of head and neck cancer (HNC) patients.

Methods A retrospective cohort study reviewed data from 1,310 patients with HNC who received oral examination before radiation therapy at Rajavithi Hospital between 2014 and 2020. Associations with OS were analyzed using Kaplan-Meier and Cox proportional hazard models. This study was reviewed and approved by the ethics committee, at Rajavithi Hospital.

Results Of these 1,310 patients, 75.6 were male, age was 56.56 ± 12.12 years, 63.2% were smoking, 7.1% were betel quid chewing and 74.4% were at advanced stage (stage III and IV) at presentation. Five-year OS was 31.5% for all HNC cases, 32.6 % for the oral cavity, 29.4% for the larynx, and 17.6% for the oropharynx. The median survival time of 41 months. Predictors of OS were recurrence (HR = 22.49; 95% CI: 10.55-47.94) and Node III (HR = 1.70; 95% CI: 1.28-2.27) respectively.

Conclusions HNC patients have poor OS, especially in the high stage. Recurrence and Node III are significant factors. These data provide important prognostic information for HNC.