

Can Chemoradiation Lead to a Negative Imaging in a Stage IV Oropharyngeal Cancer? †

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Abstract: Oropharyngeal cancers represent approximately 10% of the annual incidence of head and neck squamous cell carcinoma worldwide. The incidence is four times higher in the male population and is usually diagnosed in the sixth or seventh decade. We present a case of a 55-year-old woman who presented to the ENT service for headaches and otalgia on the left side. During the clinical exam, left tonsillar hypertrophy and submandibular adenopathy were noticed. Based on the imaging investigations and histopathology report that followed, the patient was diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma of the left tonsil, stage IVA. According to the guidelines, there were three treatment options. The treatment protocol selected by the tumor board was concomitant radiotherapy and chemotherapy. The patient received up to 70Gy divided into 35 fractions and only 4 cures of cisplatin due to severe adverse effects. A PET- CT scan was performed 12 weeks after the end of chemoradiation, and there was no tumor residue detected. This case was brought to our attention by its particularities as the unusual clinical presentation, the noteworthy epidemiology as this type of cancer is uncommon among the female population, and the non-surgical curative treatment. Such a type of approach should be considered when treating an oncological patient as it is more comfortable than surgical resection.

Keywords: tonsillar cancer; curative; chemoradiation.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.