XXXIII CONGRESSO NAZIONALE AIRO

AIRO2023

BOLOGNA, 27-29 OTTOBRE 2023

PALAZZO DEI CONGRESSI

Radioterapia Oncologica: l'evoluzione al servizio dei pazienti



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Impact of acupuncture on acute dysphagia in patients treated with radiochemotherapy for head and neck squamous cell carcinoma: preliminary results from a randomized phase 2 study (NCT 05143268)

Ilaria Morelli

Radiation Oncology, Azienda Ospedaliero Universitaria Careggi, Università di Firenze



UNIVERSITÀ Degli studi

FIRENZE

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BACKGROUND

In HNSCC patients undergoing primary radio-chemotherapy (RCT), dysphagia is a frequent side effect. Acupuncture (ACP) impact on its management is still unclear. An Italian, multicentric, randomized phase 2 study is currently ongoing with the primary aim to compare the effect of ACP and standard treatment on swallowing function assessed with MDADI scale (MD Anderson Dysphagia Inventory) 2 weeks after the end of RT. Here, we report a preliminary analysis on ACP compliance in the experimental arm

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Inclusion criteria:

•Histological diagnosis HNSCC

•Eligibility to radical non surgical treatment (RT alone, platinum-based CTRT,

RT+ cetuximab)

•Age \geq 18

•ECOG PS 0-2

•Stage I-III for oropharyngeal cancer (OPC) HPV+, stage II-IVB for non-OPC HPV- carcinoma and accessibility to ACP service with oncological experience.

Randomization in a 1:1 ratio

Arm A (experimental): weekly ACP from 2 weeks before the beginning of RT up to 2 weeks after the end of treatment (total of 11 sessions)

Arm B (standard): standard treatment

<u>Dysphagia evaluation</u>: EORTC QLQ-C30, QLQ-HN43 and MDADI questionnaires at baseline and 2, 12 and 24 weeks after treatment

ACP is hypothesized to yield a 10 point improvement in mean MDADI composite score compared with historical data (from 58 to 68; α=0.05, beta=0.80, sample size=90)

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Radioterapia Oncologica: l'evoluzione al servizio dei pazienti

Tab. 1: Patients 'characteristics (Florence cohort, n=37)

RESULTS

June 2021-May 2023

- ✓ **78** patients enrolled (ACP, n=**39**; standard arm, n=**39**).
- $\checkmark~$ All treated with IMRT and 59 with concomitant systemic therapy.
- ✓ In the Florence cohort (**Tab.1**) 10 pts underwent RT alone, 25 RT + platinum-based CT and 2 RT+ cetuximab
 - ✓ 68 bilateral neck irradiation.

ACP arm compliance among those who completed treatment:

- excellent (100%): 17
- very good (99-75%): 4
- good (74-50%): 4
- poor (49-25%): 1
- very poor (<25%): 3

Reasons for APC discontinuation: **worsening of clinical conditions requiring hospitalization** (n=2) or **supportive care** (n= 2). None had side effects from ACP

CONCLUSIONS

Our preliminary results showed that weekly ACP is feasible and well tolerated in patients undergoing radiation-based treatment for locally advanced HNSCC. Its impact on acute dyrabatia is still under investigation









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