

headandneck 5000

Primary malignant salivary gland tumours from Head and Neck 5000 – an observational study.

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Scientific Outline

Summary

Primary malignant salivary gland tumours (PMSGT) are rare, forming a small proportion (3-5%) of all head and neck cancers. There are no large multicentre studies examining PMSGT's in the UK. The exact aetiology of salivary gland cancer is not known, but there are several risk factors including increased age, radiation exposure and tobacco use. PMSGT can show an unpredictable course with loco-regional failure and distant metastasis, which may occur several years after the initial presentation. This study will determine demographic characteristics, prognostic factors and compare treatment modalities for patients from the Head and Neck 5000 database.

PMSGT cases will be identified from the Head and Neck 5000 database. Demographic data including tumour type, sub-site, and TNM staging will be gathered. Patient data including age, and occupation as well as the treatment modality for all cases will be tabulated. For patients who underwent surgery; resection margins, lymphovascular invasion and perineural invasion will be investigated. Where available, smoking and alcohol status, radiation exposure, early survival, and quality of life data of patients with PMSGT will be explored. T test, chi-square and Fischer test will be conducted for statistical analysis.

The Head and Neck 5000 database provides an opportunity to examine the demographic factors and disease characteristics affecting both overall and disease free survival of patients with malignant salivary gland tumours in the UK.

Key words: Primary malignant salivary gland tumours, demographic factors, disease characteristics.