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Abstracts

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ISCO23-01: Predictive Factors of Recurrence After Adjuvant Therapy for Stage II or III Colon Cancer in a Group of Iraqi Patients

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Abstract

Background: Local and metastatic recurrence usually occurs within two years of colon cancer surgery, and several factors can affect recurrence after curative resection. ***Objective***: To identify indicators predicting recurrence in stage II or III colon cancer patients following surgery and adjuvant therapy. ***Methods***: This retrospective cross-sectional analysis included 68 recurrent colon cancer patients after surgery and adjuvant treatment. The patient's records provided demographic data, including age, gender, smoking status, alcohol consumption, comorbidities, family history of malignancy, and occupation, and clinical data, including the time between diagnosis and surgery, CEA before treatment, total involved lymph nodes, type of surgery, treatment protocol, and metastatic organs. Tumor size, side, site, lympho-vascular invasion, perineural invasion, blockage, perforation, margin, primary tumor classification, lymph node involvement, grade, and stage were all recorded. Patients were divided into local and metastatic recurrence groups. Additionally, patients were allocated into two subgroups: those with ≤ one-year RFS and those with > one-year RFS. ***Results***: 28 patients (41.18%) had local recurrence, whereas 40 (58.82%) had metastasis. Positive surgical margins were observed in 25% of patients with ≤1 year local RFS and none with >1 year RFS, a significant difference. Three clinical variables significantly predicted >1-year RFS. The descending colon was the tumor location in 17.86% of patients with ≤1 year total RFS, compared to 40% in those with >1 year RFS, a significant difference. The cecum was the major location in 25% of patients with ≤1 year overall RFS and 7.5% of those with >1 year RFS, a substantial deviation. Additionally, 10.7% of patients with ≤1 year total RFS had a favorable surgical margin, compared to none with >1 year overall RFS, a significant difference. Stage III cancers were seen in 89.29% of patients with ≤1 year overall RFS compared to 67.5% of those with >1 year RFS, a significant difference. ***Conclusions***: The only significant feature linked to early (≤ one-year) local recurrence-free survival is margin positive. Early (≤ one-year) overall recurrence-free survival is closely connected to tumor site (cecum), positive margins, and grade III malignancy. However, descending colon cancers highly predict late (> one-year) recurrence-free survival.

Keywords: Adjuvant therapy, Colon cancer, Iraqi patients, Predictive factors, Recurrence.

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ISCO23-02: Characteristics of Advanced and Metastatic Melanoma in Iraq: Descriptive Observational Study

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Abstract

Background: Melanoma is a malignant neoplasm originating from melanocytes, the pigment-producing cells in the skin. It is known for its aggressive nature and potential to metastasize to distant organs, leading to a high mortality rate. While melanoma has been extensively studied in various populations, there is limited information on its characteristics in the Iraqi population, especially regarding advanced and metastatic cases. Investigating the clinical and demographic features of advanced and metastatic melanoma in Iraq can enhance our understanding of the disease and provide valuable insights for tailored prevention strategies and treatment protocols. ***Methods***: This study employed a descriptive observational design to analyze the characteristics of advanced and metastatic melanoma cases in Iraq. Data were collected from multiple centers in Iraq, revision of medical records was used for data collection. Patients diagnosed with advanced and metastatic melanoma within a specified period were included in the study. The sample size was determined based on the available data during the study period. Demographical, clinical, and pathological variables were analyzed. ***Results***: One hundred cases with advanced melanoma were included in this study. The mean age of the samples was 55.8±15.5 years old. Male to female ratio was 0.79. Around 31% received palliative radiotherapy and 54% of the samples were still alive at the end of the study. The most prevalent disease presentation was tumor metastasis (57%), followed by recurrent metastatic at 33%. The most common sites of metastasis encountered in this study were the lungs (47.1%), the bone (35.3%), and lymph nodes (32.9%). Concerning the survival probability of the melanoma cohort in our study; it was found that 85% survived in the first 6 months of diagnosis, it decreased to 74% in the first year, and further reduced to 54% after two years of diagnosis. ***Conclusions***: The prevalence of malignant melanoma in the Iraqi population was higher among older adults, with a slightly higher occurrence in females. Metastasis was the most frequent form of presentation, predominantly affecting the lungs, followed by the bones, lymph nodes, and liver. The overall survival rate showed a progressive decline over time, however, no significant association with patient gender could be established.

Keywords: Advanced melanoma, Description, Iraqi patients.

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ISCO23-03: The Role of *miRNA-9* as a Predisposing Factor for Metastasis in Breast Cancer among Iraqi Patients, from Localized to Locally Advanced and Metastatic Stages

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Abstract

Background: Breast cancer (BC) is the highly prevalent malignancy afflicting women worldwide, with an alarming 2 million new cases diagnosed in 2020. The escalating incidence and mortality rates of this disease have demonstrated a consistent upward trend over the past three decades. These trends are primarily attributed to modifications in risk factor profiles, advancements in cancer registration methodologies, and enhanced capabilities in cancer detection techniques. ***Objective***: To assess miRNA-9 gene expression across all sample types, with gene expression levels normalized to the housekeeping gene U6 and quantified using the ΔCt value and the fold change ($2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$) method ***Methods***: This study was conducted at the Oncology Teaching Hospital/Baghdad Medical City and the Oncology Unit at Al-Yarmouk Teaching Hospital in Baghdad, encompassing a cohort of 150 samples divided into two groups: a blood group comprising 90 samples (control, localized, locally advanced, and metastatic BC patients) and a tissue group comprising 60 samples (benign and malignant BC). The study spanned from March 2022 to January 2023, involving patients aged 24 to 75 years. ***Results***: An upregulated fold expression of *miRNA-9*, with the highest expression observed in locally advanced and metastatic BC (fold expression 2.404±0.1364 compared to other groups. In localized breast cancer, the fold expression was 1.795±0.092, and in malignant tissue, it was 1.972±0.119, both compared to the apparently healthy control group. ***Conclusions***: miR-9 can be considered as a potential diagnostic marker in breast cancer.

Keywords: Breast cancer, Localized tumor, Locally advanced tumor, miRNA-9, Metastasis.

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ISCO23-04: Impact of COVID-19 on Cancer Patients in Iraq

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Abstract

Background: The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a viral disease caused by a novel severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) that affects the respiratory system of infected individuals. COVID-19 spreads between humans through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Individuals of all ages are at risk for infection, but in most cases disease severity is associated with age and pre-existing diseases that compromise immunity, like cancer. ***Objective***: To evaluate the occurrence of severe outcomes due to COVID-19 infection among patients with current or prior malignancy. ***Methods***: A retrospective cross sectional study collected during (1st of January to 31st of December 2021) of 100 cancer patients (50% with solid tumors and 50% with hematologic malignancies) from multi centers including Oncology Teaching Hospital, Baghdad Hematological center and Private Nursing Home Hospital in Medical

City Complex infected with COVID-19. ***Results***: There was statistically significant association between COVID-19 severity in cancer patients and ECOG performance status score≥1 was (10%, *p*=0.009), duration of malignancy≥3 years was (30%, *p*=0.017), and status of cancer at time of SARS-CoV-2 which was found cancer patients in remission during coronavirus infection developed more critical cases was (80%, *p*=0.001). ***Conclusions***: Morbidity and mortality are more attributed to severity of COVID-19 parameters rather than the underlying malignant disease.

Keywords: Cancer patients, COVID-19 impact, Iraq.

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ISCO23-05: Tumor Characteristics and Clinical Outcomes in Elderly Iraqi Patients with Breast Cancer

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Abstract

Background: The number of elderly patients with breast cancer is increasing as its incidence increase with age, but knowledge about differences in biological and clinical outcomes is limited. The impact of breast cancer on the survival of elderly patients is important to explore because of indolent nature of breast cancer in postmenopausal women and the competing causes of mortality from other diseases. ***Objective***: To provide more information about biological and clinical features of breast cancer that is needed to support the difference in therapy in elderly patients and its effect on survival. ***Methods***: The study sample includes 323 breast cancer patients recruited from The Oncology Teaching Hospital, Baghdad. After exclusion those with missing data and male breast cancer patients, the data of 216 patients were included in this study. Then they ranked into two groups (55-65 years and older than 65 years). Comparison between these two groups was done regarding multiple parameters, including the TNM and AJCC stage, tumor hormonal receptor status, Her2-neu status, intrinsic subtypes, treatment modalities, and progression free survival. ***Results***: 25.4% of patients are 55 years or older and 8.4% are older than 65 years, with stage II being the most common on presentation in both groups. There was no difference in ER, PR, and Her2-neu representation between the two age groups. The HR +ve and HER2 -ve was the most frequent intrinsic subtype in both groups also. The older patients were treated with less chemotherapy than younger patients but still there is no significant difference in the 3 years PFS between the two groups. ***Conclusions***: Elderly patients with breast cancer have approximately similar tumor characteristics in comparison with younger age patients and this require that elderly patients may receive more adjuvant treatment when they are good candidates.

Keywords: Breast cancer, Characteristics, Clinical outcomes, Elderly patients, Iraq.

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ISCO23-06: Incidence of Hypercalcemia and Hyponatremia as Paraneoplastic Syndrome of Bronchogenic Carcinoma among a Sample of Iraqi Patients

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Abstract

Background: bronchogenic carcinoma is a serious public health problem with an increasing in incidence and prevalence in Iraq. Paraneoplastic syndromes are caused by humoral factors produced by cancer cells that act at a site distant from both the primary site and its metastases or by cross-reactivity between host antitumor antibodies and normal tissues. Hypercalcemia and hyponatremia most important in bronchogenic cancer. ***Objective***: to evaluate the incidence of serum calcium and serum sodium in SCLC and NSCLC as paraneoplastic syndrome in Iraqi patients. ***Methods***: this cross-section study including 50 patients with histopathology confirmed metastatic bronchogenic carcinoma (SCLC and NSCLC), who were attending oncology teaching hospital/Baghdad during 6-month duration from 1st of May to 1st of November 2021. The data collected were the (age, gender, co-morbidity, smoking history, types of lung cancers, and serum levels of sodium and calcium). ***Results***: there were a significant difference in the mean S. Na^{+1} according to histopathological type of lung cancer. The lowest mean is found in SCLC. ***Conclusions***: hyponatremia is common in SCLC, while hypercalcemia is uncommon.

Keywords: Bronchogenic carcinoma, Hypercalcemia, Hyponatremia, Iraqi patients, Paraneoplastic syndrome.

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