

## A Retrospective Study of the Use of Cisplatin-5-Fluorouracil Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy versus Radiotherapy Alone in Early Stage Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma

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**Purpose** : To analyze the impact of neoadjuvant chemotherapy on the treatment of early stage nasopharyngeal carcinoma and to assess the outcomes of patients receiving such treatment.

**Methods and Materials** : We analyzed retrospectively 62 previously untreated and histologically confirmed early stage nasopharyngeal carcinoma patients treated with either radiation therapy only or combined neoadjuvant chemotherapy and radiotherapy at the Seoul National University Hospital between 1986 and 2004. The stage distribution was as follows: AJCC 1997 Stage I-7, Stage II-25 in the radiation therapy group (RT group); AJCC Stage I-4, Stage II-28 in neoadjuvant chemotherapy and radiation therapy group (CT/RT group). The median follow-up duration was 117 months.

**Results** : The 5-year overall survival (OS) rates were 83.8% for the RT group and 76.3% for the CT/RT group ( $p=0.374$ ). The 5-year disease-free survival (DFS) rates were 75% for the RT group and 68.0% for the CT/RT group ( $p=0.652$ ). The 5-year freedom from distant metastasis (DMF) rates were 90.4% for the RT group and 84.0% for the CT/RT group ( $p=0.415$ ). N stage was the significant prognostic factor for the overall survival rate ( $p=0.044$ ).

**Conclusion** : There was no statistical difference in OS, DFS and DMF rates between RT and CT/RT group in early stage nasopharyngeal carcinoma. N stage was the significantly correlated with overall survival rate.