

DURATION OF SYMPTOMS AND CLINICAL OUTCOMES POST TREATMENT AMONG PATIENTS WITH AIDS-RELATED KAPOSI'S SARCOMA SEEN AT OCEAN ROAD CANCER INSTITUTE

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ABSTRACT

The number of patients with Epidemic Kaposi's Sarcoma (EKS) is increasing, bringing suffering to the patients and affecting the manpower of our society. While prevalence in developed countries is going down due to wide use of HAART, the case is different in our set up, where the modality of treatment differs from the west. Data to substantiate the study were gathered from the Medical Registry Office at ORCI using all available medical documents (files, etc). The findings which were obtained revealed that most affected personnel reach ORCI late. The median duration of onset was twelve months. Only 61.5% of patients were on ARV for different periods of time before attending ORCI. Chemotherapy was not always sustainable. The number of patients, whose fate was not stated, was not negligible. For the period of time of the data collected, it can be concluded that despite being on ARV the outcomes are not convincing, probably there are other contributing factors for the prognosis among patients with AIDS-KS. Duration or rather onset of symptoms does not play a major role in the expected clinical outcome. Women had worse results than men despite the former reported early to the centre. Compared to other modalities of treatment available at the centre external radiotherapy has shown relatively good results. Therefore, it is recommended that external radiotherapy is a fairly better treatment modality in our set up than other regimens, which so far do not meet basic requirements such as compliance and affordability.