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Neoadjuvant Chemo-Radio Therapy in carcinoma esophagus- HCG Ahmedabad experience

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Cancer of the esophagus is the eighth most common cancer worldwide. Most of the patients present in moderate to locally advanced stage, where outcomes following surgery alone are not very promising. The role of neoadjuvant chemo radiotherapy was quite controversial till few years back. The Cross group in August 2015 established the role of neoadjuvant chemoradiotherapy in esophageal and gastro oesophageal cancers, with better survival outcomes and acceptable toxicities. In India neoadjuvant chemoradiotherapy for esophageal cancers is still not widely practiced. We at our center are utilizing this strategy since 2012. Here I am sharing our initial experience of neoadjuvant chemoradiotherapy in cancer of esophagus treated between January 2012 till August 2016. Of the total 87 patients, 77 patients with clinically node positive disease and a disease segment of more than 2 cm

underwent preoperative chemo radiotherapy. The radiation dose ranged from 41.4Gy to 50.4Gy. All the patients received weekly chemotherapy with Paclitaxel and Carboplatin. 36 patients underwent Ivor- Lewis surgery, 45 patients underwent subtotal esophagectomy, and 6 were inoperable. 61 were squamous cell carcinoma, 25 were adenocarcinoma and 1 was sarcoma. 26 patients had pathological complete response and 20 patients had good response, 19 patients showed moderate response and 12 patients had poor response. Mucositis was the most common side effect. The results and toxicities were comparable with the results of Cross trial. The long follow up will provide the data regarding survival outcomes and late toxicities in our patients. But as of now the initial experience has shown promising outcomes of using this strategy.

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