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Head And Neck Tumors: Oral Repercussions Of Antineoplastic

Therapy

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Head and neck neoplasia is the sixth most common cancer in the world and can manifest in several areas of the head (mouth), scalp, skin of the face and neck. The treatment of choice is defined according to the histopathological type, topographic location, relation with neighboring anatomical structures, staging, general clinical condition of the individual affected by the disease and medical-hospital conditions, ranging from surgery, radiotherapy and uni or multimodal chemotherapy. Despite the various therapeutic possibilities for head and neck cancer, all treatments bring with them side effects, immediate and / or late repercussions that may compromise the function and buco-maxillofacial aesthetics and, consequently, the individual's quality of life. Objectives: To identify side effects and immediate and late oral repercussions arising from antineoplastic therapy in the head and neck region. Methodology: Literature review based on published articles available on the internet, in the database systems: Medlars on line International Literature (Medline), Latin American and Caribbean Literature in Health Sciences (Lilacs) and Brazilian Bibliography of Dentistry (BBO) present on the website of the Virtual Health Library (VHL). Results and Discussion: The literature is unanimous in indicating the most frequently observed complications in this group of patients: mucositis, opportunistic infections, radiodermatitis, hyposalivation, xerostomia, radiation caries, dysphagia, ageusia, trismus, soft tissue necrosis and osteoradionecrosis. In addition to the morbidity associated with cancer, its treatment also produces numerous side effects, several of which are oral manifestations with immediate and / or late repercussions, and may present more markedly in patients with precarious oral health conditions and lack of dental care. Conclusion: It is imperative to seek the prevention and early diagnosis of these tumors, in order to avoid death and mutilation, which compromise the patient's quality of life, as well as provide timely dental care.

Keywords: Oncology; Antineoplastic Therapy; Head and neck cancer; Mouth; Dentistry.

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