

Oral cavity changes after radiotherapy

(Poster presenter)

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Abstract:

Introduction: Radiation therapy is a method that exploits the penetrating power of ionizing radiation that penetrates the body of the specified place and the desired depth and destroying damaged tissue. It is most commonly used to treat tumors in a way that reduces or completely destroys the tumor node. External beam therapy (EBT) and Intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) are two of the methods commonly used in radiotherapy.

Aim: The aim of this study was to detect the changes to the oral cavity that occur after radiotherapy to the head and neck

Materials and Methods: For the realizations of this survey were examined 22 patients from the Demir Hisar region that had some radiation therapy to the head and neck. The tests were performed by clinical examination and x-ray images. It was also performed an insight into the outpatient books of the primary care dentists and primary care physicians.

Results: In 19% there are not changes after radiotherapy. 59% of patients have acute changes while 22% of the changes are of chronic character. From the acute changes most common is dry mouth 77%, followed by 61.5% mucous, difficulty swallowing 46%, burning sensation in the mouth 38% and distortion in perception of taste 30%. 80% of chronic changes fall in chronic xerostomia while chronic *Candida albicans* occurs in 60% of patients and osteoradionecrosis occurs in 20%.

Conclusion: From the performed tests and the results we can conclude that in 81% of patients appears change in the oral cavity after radiation therapy to the head and neck. The most common changes are of acute character which, if appropriate treatment is not received, can turn into chronic changes.

Key words: acute changes, oral cavity, patients, radiotherapy, xerostomia.