

Analysis of Second Primary Lung Cancers Developed Following Different System Tumors

Farklı Sistem Tümörlerini Takiben Gelişen İkinci Primer Akciğer Kanserlerinin Analizi

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ÖZET

Amaç: Bu çalışmada farklı sistem malignitelerine sekonder olarak gelişen akciğer tümörlerin klinik özellikleri ve primer tümörle olan ilişkilerinin araştırılması amaçlandı.

Yöntemler: 2002-2010 yılları arasında takipleri sırasında ikinci primer kanser tanısı alan otuz hasta çalışmaya dahil edildi. Hastalar, akciğer kanseri gelişme sürelerine göre senkron (n: 7 hasta, %16.7) ve metakron (n: 23 hasta, %83.3) grup olarak iki grupta değerlendirildi.

Bulgular: Hastaların %50'sinde ilk 2.5 yıl içinde ikinci primer kanser saptandı. Hastaların çoğunluğunun (%43.3) akrabalarında ekstra pulmoner kanser öyküsü vardı. Akciğer kanseri tanısı konulan hastalardan %50'sinde sigarayı bırakma, %30'unda aktif içici ve %20'sinde hiç sigara kullanmamış olma öyküsü vardı. Primer kanser ile ilgili yapılan tedaviye yanıt ve ikincil gelişen kanserin süresi arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir ilişki saptanmadı (p=0.36). Grupların tamamında sağ kalım süresi 24 ay senkron grupta, 12 ay metakron grupta belirlendi.

Sonuç: Primer hastalıktan sonra özellikle ilk 2.5 yıl içinde yakın takip ve hastalara sigara içiciliğinin bırakılmasının teşvik edilmesi önem taşımaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Akciğer kanseri; ikinci primer; senkron; metakron

ABSTRACT

Objective: This study aimed to investigate clinical characteristics and prognosis of secondarily developed lung tumors in the cases having different system malignancy and to evaluate the relationship with the primary tumor.

Methods: Between January 2002- December 2010 thirty patients diagnosed as second primary lung cancer have been included in the study. The patients were grouped according to lung cancer development time; synchronous group (n: 7 patients, 16.7%) and metachronous group (n: 23 patients, 83.3%).

Results: Second cancer was detected in 50% of the patients within the first 2.5 years. Majority of patients had extra pulmonary cancer history concerning their relatives (43.3%). The rate of quitting smoking among all patients before the diagnosis of lung cancer was 50%, current smoker rate was 30% and never smoker was 20%. There was no statistical relationship between the response to treatment of first cancer and the duration of cancer developed secondarily (p=0.36). The overall survival of groups was found 24 months (95% confidence interval: 18.3 months) and 12 months (95% confidence interval: 10-14 months) respectively for synchronous and metachronous groups.

Conclusion: Close follow-up on pulmonary system especially within the first 2.5 years after primary disease and encouragement on quitting smoking is important.

Key words: Lung carcinoma, second primary; synchronous; metachronous

Introduction

Multiple primary malignancies (MPM) are defined as malignant neoplasm those occur apart from the first cancer. Observations of

MPM were previously considered as isolated and exceptional cases. However, as a result of the improvement in diagnostic tools, treatment modalities and supportive care, survival time for cancer patients has been prolonged and the



number of MPM has continued to grow (1). Since the number of patients with MPM continues to grow, clinicians should be aware of this danger and try to detect the second primary cases as early as possible. The rate of development second primary cancer was reported as 1.7-3.9% (1-3). The causative factor for this unwanted result can be due to long survival of patients, immune deficiency, genetic defects, and /or a hereditary defect in tumor suppressor genes, advanced age, dietary factors, treatment modalities, occupational factors, and current smoking (1,2). During the last decade an increase in the incidence of MPM has been reported (4).

The aim of the present study was to evaluate clinical characteristics and prognosis of secondarily developed lung tumors in the cases having different system malignancy and to examine the relationship with the primary tumor.

Methods

Study population

Between January 2002- December 2010, 30 patients diagnosed as second primary lung cancer those admitted to Dr. A. Y. Ankara Oncology Training and Research Hospital during follow up and staging for their primary tumor have been included in the study. In this retrospective study, cases were selected among the ones who have been suspected of lung cancer according to their symptoms, radiological and clinical findings. Confirmation of histopathological diagnosis was the main point of ultimate patient selection. Besides Warren and Gates criteria i) each of the tumors must present a definite picture of malignancy; each must be distinct, ii) second primary tumor should be lung cancer, iii) there should be histological documentation of each malignant lesion, iv) the cases with the existence of metastatic lesion of the lungs or metastatic lesions from the lungs must be excluded from the study, v) lesions occurring greater than 6 months apart are defined as metachronous and those occurring within 6 months are defined as synchronous] was taken into consideration to define second primary malignancies (1,5). The patients were grouped according to lung metastasis development time; group I,

synchronous group (n= 7 patients) and group II, metachronous group (n= 23 patients). The data were collected retrospectively and approved by our institutional ethical committee.

The patients' data was included patients characteristics (age, gender, occupation, family cancer history, smoking habit, duration of quitting smoking), primary tumor characteristics (date of diagnosis, the localization of primary tumor, histopathology, stage, treatment methods and the response to treatment) and the findings associated second primary lung cancer (date of diagnosis, pulmonary symptoms, radiological findings, bronchoscopic findings, diagnostic procedure, histopathological findings). The treatment response criteria have been adapted from the original response evaluation criteria in solid tumors (RECIST) (6).

Statistical analysis

Descriptive statistic was used for the distribution of patient demographic characteristics and tumor-related characteristics, diagnosis and systemic treatment. Overall survival (OS) was defined as the length of time between diagnosis of second primary lung cancer to death or last follow-up. Kaplan-Meier curves for OS was estimated by the development time of lung carcinoma, and compared using the log rank test. These analyses were used to calculate the relative risk and 95% confidence intervals (CI). P values <.05 were considered as statistically significant. All analyses were carried out using SPSS software (version 13.0; SPSS Inc, Chicago, IL).

Results

The distribution of synchronous and metachronous tumors was 16.7% and 83.3% respectively. Of the thirty patients with lung cancer, 26 were male and four were female. The age of primary malignancy and second primary lung malignancy was median 59.5 (range, 38-82 years) and 63 years (range, 39-83 years) respectively (p= 0.10). In synchronous tumors the duration of time between two malignancies was median one month (range, 1-5 months) while it was median 36 months (9-168 months) in the metachronous ones, overall 31 months (range, 1-168 months).



The rate of quitting smoking among all patients before the diagnosis of lung cancer was 50%, current smoker rate was 30% and never smoker was 20%. Majority of patients had extra pulmonary cancer history concerning their relatives (43.3%). The localization of primary cancers is shown in Table 1. The most frequent primary localization was larynx (40%) and the most frequent histopatological diagnosis was squamous cell carcinoma (SCC).

Table 1. The localization of primary cancer

Localization	Patients No	(%)
Larynx	12	40%
Prostate	4	13.3%
Bladder	2	6.7%
Skin	1	3.3%
Bowel	3	10.0%
Breast	2	6.7%
Stomach	2	6.7%
Soft tissue sarcoma	1	3.3%
Testis	1	3.3%
Cervix	1	3.3%
Brain	1	3.3%

Second primary lung cancer was detected in 50% of the patients within the first 2.5 years. The feature of patients and tumor characteristics of second primary lung cancer are given Table 2. The most frequent symptom of the patients was cough and hemoptysis, while 20% were asymptomatic. During the diagnosis different biopsy methods were used to confirm the lung cancer (bronchoscopic biopsy in 19 patients, transthoracic needle aspiration biopsy in 6 patients, surgical biopsy in 3 patients and pleural biopsy in 2 patients). Mostly bronchial biopsies (100% in synchronous group and 52.1% in metachronous group) were diagnostic tools in patients. Staging of second primary lung cancer revealed mostly stage III-IV disease.

Treatment modalities for the primary localized tumor and second primary lung cancer are given Table 3. Majority of patients received surgical treatment for primary localized carcinoma, while for secondarily developed carcinoma, the most frequent treatment choice was chemotherapy and/or

best supportive care. This can be attributed as an advanced stage for lung cancer patients. The lung tumor was removed by surgically in 4 patients with second primary lung cancer (one patient in synchronous group and 3 patients in metachronous group).

When treatment response was taken into account for the primary localized tumor; complete response rate was 80%, and partial response rate was 20%. There was no statistical relationship between the response to treatment of first cancer and the duration of cancer developed secondarily ($p=0.36$). When the data collection was completed in December 2009, the patients had a median follow-up of 12 months (range, 1-84 months) after the diagnosis of lung carcinoma. The patients who had synchronous and metachronous lung carcinoma were compared for OS, the survey graphic is given in Figure 1. The OS of groups was found 24 months (95% CI: 18-30 months) and 12 months (95% CI: 10-14 months) respectively ($p=0.65$). At the end of the study period, 4 patients (57.1%) in group I and 3 patients in group II (13.0%) were still alive.

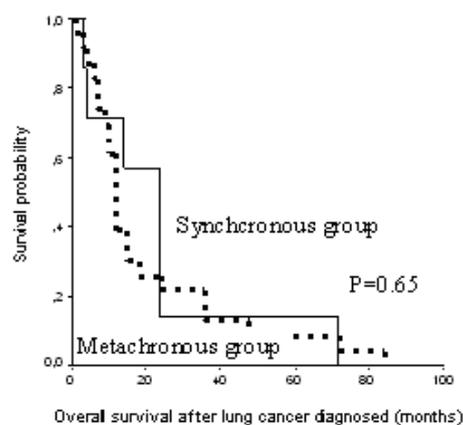


Figure 1. The curve showing overall survival of metachronous and synchronous tumor groups (Kaplan-Meier).

Discussion

There are relatively few population-based data regarding development of second primary carcinoma of lung following different system tumors. However our previous knowledge showed that 3 various type of lung cancer can develop; 1) lung cancer after lung cancer 2) lung cancer after different system cancer 3) different system cancer after lung cancer (4).



Following different system carcinomas especially upper aerodigestive tract, rectal, anal, cervix and thyroid gland, bladder, and Hodgkin lymphoma second lung cancers were observed (7,8). The risk of a second primary malignancy in patients who have had a SCC of the head and neck is significantly increased

compared with the age-matched general population (9). Two large contemporary cancer registry studies provide insights into the magnitude and details of the increased risk. The most frequent second malignancy was lung cancer (20-year cumulative risk 13%) (10,11). Radiation therapy can increase the risk

Table 2. The features of patients and tumor characteristics of second primary lung cancer

	All Patients (n:30)	Synchronous group (n:7)	Metachronous group (n:23)
Age (median years)	63	62	63
Sex (M/F)*	26/4	7/0	19/4
Family history for cancer	13(43.3%)	3 (42%)	10 (43.4%)
Smoking status	Current smoker	9(30%)	6 (26%)
	Ex smoker	15(50%)	11 (47.8%)
	Never smoker	6(20%)	6 (26%)
Respiratory Symptoms	Symptomatic	3(42%)	21 (91.3%)
	Asymptomatic	6(20%)	2 (8.6%)
Location of tumor	Peripheral	1(14.2%)	11 (47.8%)
	Central	18(60%)	12(52.2%)
Histopathology	Nonsmall cell	7 (100 %)	20 (86.9 %)
	Small cell	3(10%)	3 (13.04%)
Stage NSCLC** (TNM)	I	0	0
	II	2(6.6%)	1(14.3%)
	III	13(43.4%)	5(71.4%)
	IV	12(40%)	1(14.3%)
Stage SCLC***	Limited Disease	2(6.6%)	2(8.7%)
	Extensive Disease	1(3.4%)	1(4.3%)

***Male /Female **NSCLC: Nonsmall cell lung cancer * ** SCLC:Small cell lung cancer

Table 3. Treatment modalities for the primary localized tumor and second primary lung cancer

Treatment	Primary cancer Patients no (%)	Second primary lung cancer Patients no (%)
Surgery	13 (43.3)	4 (13.3)
CT	1 (3.3)	9 (30)
RT	2 (6.7)	3(10)
Surgery +RT	9 (30)	-
Surgery+ CT	2 (6.7)	-
Surgery+CT+RT	3 (10)	-
CT+RT	-	6 (20)
Cranial RT alone	-	2 (6.7)
Best supportive care	-	6 (20)

CT: Chemotherapy

RT: Radiotherapy

of a second primary lung cancer in patients who have been treated for other malignancies. This increased risk has been demonstrated in patients with both Hodgkin lymphoma and breast cancer (12,13). In the British National Lymphoma Investigation, for example, one-

third of all excess malignancies were lung cancers (14). The risk of developing or dying from a second malignancy is two to three times greater in survivors of testicular cancer than in the general population. The largest study to date included 40,576 testicular cancer



survivors from 14 population-based tumor registries in Europe and North America; more than 7800 were followed for 20 years, and 2065 were followed for 30 years (15). Cancer of the lung, colon, bladder, pancreas, and stomach accounted for almost 60% of the total excess number of solid tumors. Individuals with esophageal adenocarcinomas are at a higher risk of developing second cancers of the stomach, oropharynx and lung/bronchus (16). In our study the majority of cases were larynx carcinoma and the other localization are given in Table 1.

Patients treated for head and neck carcinoma frequently develop second primary tumors in the lung (17). The risk of second primary lung cancer in this group of patients is 14-47%. Differing hypotheses exist regarding this propensity of the upper aerodigestive tract for developing second cancers. Slaughter et al. has proposed the concept of “condemned mucosa” developing after chronic carcinogen exposure leading to field cancerisation of the aero digestive tract (18). Carey et al. has countered that field cancerisation may be monoclonal with second tumors developing from micrometastatic tumor deposits breaking off from the original primary tumor and growing in other subsides of the tract (19).

We especially observed tobacco related cancers mostly. All of the larynx carcinoma cases in our study had history of smoking; therefore we think that smoking behavior as a chronic carcinogen exposure can result with second lung carcinomas via unique airway tract. Although quitting of smoking was advised for each patient after the first cancer diagnosis, we observed that 30% of patients continued to smoke in whole study group. Especially 42% of synchronous group was current smoker during the diagnosis of second cancer. It has been reported in a meta-analysis of Parsons et al. smoking cessation after diagnosis of cancer would prevent larger number of estimated number of deaths expected from cardiovascular deaths as well as mortality gained due to cancer progression (20). Close follow-up on pulmonary system especially within the first 2.5 years after primary disease and encouragement on quitting smoking becomes important. Family history of cancer was present 43.3% of all study cases (42% and 43.4% respectively for synchronous and metachronous group) that indicates

majority of cases had cancer history in their first-degree relatives. Thus MPM need to be investigated for genetic susceptibility. From the Swedish Family Cancer – Database, Xinjun Li et al. declared that lung cancer has been one of the main cancer types for studies on the effects of genetic polymorphisms (5). It has also been documented that association of cervix carcinoma and lung cancer may be due to be infected by human papilloma virus (HPV) which is also a carcinogenic factor for lung cancer (21). This relationship should be supported by further studies.

Histopathological appearance was nearly similar when we observed lung and larynx cases. Mostly SCC in both cases was observed. Thus the differential diagnosis of both tumors is frequently difficult. In this study all of our cases were selected among those mainly overlapping with clinical and histopathological criteria of Warren and Gates as previously mentioned. Suspected of cases with metastasis were absolutely excluded from the study.

Majority of our patients received surgical treatment for primary localized carcinoma, while for secondarily developed carcinoma, the most frequent treatment choice was chemotherapy. Because of advanced stages only 4 patients (13.4%) were surgery candidates. Therefore, chemotherapy was the first choice for this group. Unfortunately, we should here emphasize a delay in the diagnosis of second cancer, since the stages were advanced at the time of diagnosis. This result can be attributed to both delay of patients or physicians. Lack of pulmonary symptoms, delay of routine control for the first cancer, underestimation of radiological scanning may be the reasons for this circumstance. Scanning with chest computerized tomography is essential since this method can detect smaller lesions earlier than a chest radiograph (22). The OS of synchronous groups was found median 24 months and median 12 months for metachronous group ($p=0.65$). This result indicated poor prognosis due to second cancer. Patients in whom a distant metastasis or second primary lung cancer develops are more likely to die of second cancer than of the initial tumor, distinguishing primary tumors from metastatic diseases is therefore essential. Since, curative treatment alternatives are considered in existence of primary lung tumors



while systematic treatments and limited surgery approaches are used in metastatic cases. Metachronous and synchronous tumors are also needed to be differentiated when second primary tumor develops. The treatment modalities are to be distinct, treatment priorities should be defined especially in synchronous groups.

The limitations of our study were relatively small number of patients which restricted the statistical power. Because of this reason survival was calculated independent of disease stage and histopathological results. Definitely, these two factors are the most important parameters of a OS. Therefore, we here want to emphasize that large number of series with subgroup analysis can be the ideal approach.

Distinguishing primary tumors from metastatic diseases is essential since, curative treatment alternatives are considered in existence of primary lung tumors while systematic treatments and limited surgery approaches are used in metastatic cases. Close follow-up on pulmonary system especially within the first 2.5 years after primary disease and encouragement on quitting smoking is important after the diagnosis of primary cancer.

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Conflict of Interest: None

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