Summary / Zusammenfassung

Purpose: To assess quality of life (QoL) and psychiatric morbidity in successfully treated oral cavity squamous cell cancer (OC-SCC) survivors and their wives.

Patients and Methods: 31 men successfully treated for OC-SCC (mean 3.7 years since diagnosis; UICC classes I – IV) together with their wives were assessed by questionnaires referring to QoL (WHOQOL-BREF), physical complaints (EORTC QOL-H&N35) and symptoms of anxiety and depression (HADS). Prevalence of psychiatric disorders was assessed by the Mini International Neuropsychiatric Interview (M.I.N.I.).

Results: Irrespective of tumor stage, a considerably high global QoL both in OC-SCC survivors and their wives could be detected. No significant difference between the mean scores of 4 domains of the QoL (exception: environmental domain) was found between patients and their wives. In patients, lower QoL was associated with more physical complaints (social eating, swallowing, and pain) and higher levels of psychological distress (HADS), whereas in wives, QoL was found to be related to levels of psychological distress. In the M.I.N.I. a high prevalence of psychiatric disorders, particularly anxiety disorders, was found in wives (38.7%); in patients (16.2%). Patients and wives diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder reported significant lower QoL.

Conclusion: Both in OC-SCC patients and their wives a considerably high overall QoL can be found. The high prevalence of anxiety disorders in wives, however, should alert clinicians and health care.

Publications / Publikationen


Keywords / Suchbegriffe

anxiety; depression; oral cavity cancer; quality of life; spouses; wives.

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