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PHASE II TRIAL OF NEOADJUVANT CHEMOTHERAPY IN CERVICAL CANCER IN INDIAN WOMEN

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Objectives: The study aimed to find out whether NACT in bulky and locally advanced cervical disease leads to improved overall survival (OAS) and disease free survival (DFS). **Methods:** Thirty cases of cervical cancer of stages IB2/IIA, IIB and IVA were subjected to NACT. The cases were administered weekly, 3# or 6# multidrug (Paclitaxel, Cisplatin and Ifosfamide), chemotherapy. This was followed by surgery (Class III Wertheim's Hysterectomy with bilateral pelvic lymph node dissection) or concurrent chemoradiation (CCRT) depending upon the response to chemotherapy. Further, cases following surgery were treated with adjuvant therapy or observation depending upon the histopathological factors. Thereafter, residual, recurrence, disease free and overall survival were recorded and results tabulated after twenty four months of follow up. **Results:** There were 12 cases of complete response, 13 with partial and 5 with no response. 53.3% cases underwent surgery, 43.3% CCRT and 3.3% cases received chemotherapy. 17% of cases received triple treatment modality following detection of high risk histopathological factors. There was 100% OAS and 83.3% DFS in stage IB2/IIA, 95% OAS and 85% DFS in Stage IIB and 50% OAS and 50% DFS in Stage IVA. **Conclusions:** The study shows improved stage wise outcome (OAS and DFS) and decreased local recurrence following NACT when compared to the accepted five year survival pattern. NACT in the treatment of cervical cancer is an option in well selected cases to decrease the number of cases receiving radiotherapy, which has long term morbidity and simultaneously improving survival.

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