

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Oropharyngeal tumours belong to the most common malignancies situated in the head and neck area. In the past, their incidence has been associated with classical risk factors (smoking and alcohol use). In the recent years, the increase of oropharyngeal carcinomas resulting from HPV (human papilloma virus) infection incidence has been observed. The change of their aetiology also implies a number of clinical differences, the most important being a significantly better survival prognosis in patients with HPV+ carcinomas.

Aims: The main goal of this thesis was to characterize correctly patients with oropharyngeal carcinomas and to identify different specifics of nursing intensive care for these patients.

Methods: The quantitative prospective study involved 30 patients following their surgical treatment of oropharyngeal carcinoma, hospitalised in an intensive care unit. The patients were divided into 3 groups: HPV+ non-smokers, HPV+ smokers, HPV- smokers.

Results: The study confirmed the demographic differences between individual patient groups. The HPV+ non-smokers group is characterized by a lower age in average, which is significantly reflected in a reduced duration of hospital stay. In addition, opioid administration rate, infection rates and postoperative complications incidences are reduced as well as the less frequent changes in antibiotic therapy. Also a higher socio-economic status and education are significant for these patients, which also apply to their better overall status and an interest in their health. Other results did not show significant differences between the studied groups.

Conclusion: The intensity of post-operative nursing care is not influenced by the HPV status of the patient; it results from factors such as the higher patient's age, the alcohol and tobacco consumptions, the presence of associated diseases and the patient's general condition.

Recommendations: The results were presented at the Student Scientific Conference and will be used as a basis for the creation of teaching material, which will be available as an e-learning lecture.

Keywords: Oropharyngeal carcinoma, HPV, surgical treatment, etiology, epidemiology, nursing care.