Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Conjunctiva

Wilson IB Onuigbo*

Department of Pathology, Medical Foundation & Clinic, Nigeria

*Corresponding author: Wilson IB Onuigbo, Department of Pathology, Medical Foundation & Clinic, Enugu 400001, Email: wilson.onuigbo@gmail.com

Submission: April 07, 2018; Published: May 29, 2018

Introduction

Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) of the conjunctiva is an important disease with world-wide distribution. The present search revealed cases in alphabetical order in Australia [1], Chile [2], Germany [3], India [4,5], Japan [6], Kenya [7], Mexico [8], and USA [9]. Collectively, they provide data for comparison with the local data.

Investigation

A Birmingham (UK) group hypothesized that the establishment of a histopathology data pool enhances epidemiological analysis [10]. Now, for the Igbo ethnic group in Nigeria [11], such a pool became available for research since 1970 when the author became the pioneer pathologist. Moreover, since I kept a personal copy of all the materials, their analysis became easy. Indeed, the tabular form made matters even easier.

Table 1: Epidemiological data on squamous cell carcinoma of the conjunctiva.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;30</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-40</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41-50</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51-60</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61-70</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71-80</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81-90</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91-100</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discussion

One salient point came from Kenya authors [7]. In their view, concerning ocular surface squamous neoplasia (OSSN), “In equatorial Africa, OSSN affects younger adults and proportionally more women than in other parts of the world.” As Table 1 shows, this is not true of Nigeria. In fact, in Mexico [8], the mean age of the patients was (60.4) range 12 to 99 years, 55% being male. In this context, the above Nigerian trend was from 29 years to 100 years (mean 46 years), 61% being male. The question of association with HIV-infection was raised in Kenya [12]. None of the present cohort was reported to be involved. Similarly, there was the report of orbital exenteration in Australia [1] Chile [2], and Germany [3]. None of the present cases was treated like that. Apparently, what transpired necessarily was “wide local excision” as in USA [9].

Result

Result is discussed in Table 1.
Conclusion

In conclusion, Japanese authors treated a 94-year-old woman [6]. Their report ended thus: “Although it is extremely rare that SCC of the conjunctiva is the initial finding in a patient with systemic cancer, careful systemic examination to find other cancers should be made.” Indeed, conjunctival SCC itself is ripe for worldwide research.

References