OESOPHAGEAL CANCER IN NIAMEY: AN ANALYSIS OF THE NIGER CANCER REGISTRY DATA

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Introduction: Oesophageal cancer is an uncommon cancer in Western Africa. It is the 21st most common type of cancer and the 18th most common cause of death from cancer in both men and women, with an estimated 1 011 new cases of oesophageal cancer (0.6% of the total) and 928 cancer deaths in 2012 (0.7% of the total) (GLOBOCAN 2012). This study was conducted to identify the epidemiological characteristics of oesophageal cancer in Niamey, capital of the Niger.

Methods: This is a descriptive retrospective study of oesophageal cancer cases, reported between 1992 and 2009 to the Niger Cancer Registry, established in 1992, in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the Abdou Moumouni University in Niamey.

Results: In 1992-2009, there were 35 cases diagnosed with oesophageal cancer in Niamey, which was 0.7% of all cancers reported during this period. More than two-thirds of the cases (68.6%) were men with a male-female ratio of 2.18. The average age at diagnosis of oesophageal cancer was 48.5 ± 11.7 years. Nearly 80% of people diagnosed with the disease were aged 40 years or older, with 74% of new cancer cases occurring among those aged 40-64 years. The risk of developing oesophageal cancer varied among various ethnic groups. Djerma-Sonrai was more likely to develop oesophageal cancer than any other ethnic groups. The most common histological type was squamous cell carcinoma. Among all diagnosed cases, 6 (17.1%) died during the study period, accounting for 0.9% of all cancer deaths.

Conclusion: Preventing the occurrence of oesophageal cancer is difficult by the fact that the two major histological types, squamous cell carcinoma and adenocarcinoma, differ substantially in their patterns of incidence and key etiologic factors.