PMME has its specific clinical and pathological features. TNM stage is significantly associated with the patients' survival, indicating that early discovery and treatment is critical for better prognosis.

The features of 17 PMME patients who received surgical resection in the National Cancer Center of China from 1975 to 2015 were retrospectively reviewed. Among them, 13 were male (76.5%), and their average age was 57.5 ± 10.3 years. The percentage of patients with smoking and alcohol consumption was 41.2% and 23.5%, respectively. The 1-year and 5-year survival rate of the patients was 51% and 10%, respectively, with median survival time being 18.1 months. This is so far the largest group of PMME patients reported and may help better understanding of the disease.

Introduction

Primary malignant melanoma of the esophagus (PMME) is an exceedingly rare disease with poor prognosis. Its comprehensive treatment strategy is not established due to lack of enough cases and evidence. We summarized the clinical and pathological characteristics of 17 PMME patients and analyzed prognostic related factors for better understanding and appropriate management of the disease.

Demographic features of PMME patients. The finding that the majority of PMME patients do not take cigarette or alcohol indicates that PMME may have a specific pathogenesis which is different from the squamous cell carcinoma and adenocarcinoma of esophagus.

Summary and accumulation of more cases is the key to better understanding of PMME. We are treating and collecting more cases in recent years and plan to study the genetic changes of the disease.