

Hypopharyngeal cancer in Sweden: a national survey from the Swedish Head and Neck Cancer Register (SweHNCR)

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Background: Given the lack of randomized trials on hypopharyngeal cancer, national data on this disease was collected from SweHNCR. The purpose was to assess the disease burden, outcome of these patients and identify possible prognostic factors.

Material & Methods: The Swedish Head & Neck Cancer Registry was used to identify patients, collect data on treatment, gender, stage at diagnosis and outcome.

Results: The general outcome of these patients is still poor with a five-year overall survival of 30% in patients treated with curative intent. There was a tendency towards a better outcome in the group selected for surgery whereas a poorer outcome was seen in the group with tumors with origin from the back wall. There was a relatively high risk of developing distant metastasis during follow-up.

Conclusions: The outcome in this group is still poor. Given the high risk of later distant failure there may be an indication of including PET CT in the diagnostic setting. Patients selected for surgery seems to fare better.