

The Reality Of Cholangiocarcinoma In India– Real World Data From A Tertiary Referral Centre

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Background : Cholangiocarcinomas (CCA) are rare tumors originating from bile duct. Due to their asymptomatic nature, they are usually diagnosed when the disease is advanced. Little data exists with respect to their incidence and treatment outcomes in low and middle-income countries

Methods : A retrospective analysis of a prospectively maintained database of all patients with perihilar (pCCA) and intrahepatic (iCCA) CCA registered between January 2012 and December 2018 was performed.

Results : A total of 760 patients, 427 (56.2%) diagnosed with pCCA and 333 (43.8%) of iCCA were included. Patients with localized, locally advanced, and metastatic disease in pCCA were 45.5%, 25.9%, 8.5% and that in iCCA were 22.1%, 10.1% and 67.7% respectively. Only 141 (43.9%, 57 – iCCA, 84 –pCCA) of the total 321 patients started on some definitive cancer-directed therapy could complete the intended treatment. The overall curative resection rate for all patients of iCCA was 14.5% whereas for patients of pCCA it was only 10.5%.

Conclusions : More than half of CCA patients are not able to complete their intended treatment, being worse for pCCA as compared to iCCA. Early referral and centralization of treatment for this complex disease might be the way forward to achieve optimal outcomes.

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