

TREATMENT OF HEAD AND NECK CANCER AND ITS RELATION TO ORAL HEALTH

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Categoria do Trabalho

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Resumo

Head and neck cancer is the fifth most common cancer worldwide and its survival rate is low. The oral health of patients who have the aforementioned type of cancer is directly affected through the sequelae of the treatment and the disease itself. The most common sequelae are those that affect the salivary glands and loss of oral microbiota, causing some diseases such as Xerostomia, Mucositis, periodontal diseases, the presence of opportunistic infections such as candidiasis, Dysphagia, Dysgeusia. In this context, a bibliographical review was carried out to deepen the subject.

The words used to find the articles were head and neck cancer, head and neck radiotherapy, cancer and oral health. We used the Google Scholar platform as a guide to search for articles and through it, 10 most relevant articles were selected to carry out the research.

This study allowed us to emphasize the main side effects of radiotherapy. It was also possible to discover that the most affected physical domains are related to saliva production and eating problems. Radiation between 22.2 and 54 Gy causes damage to the parenchyma of the salivary glands, causing fibrosis and decreased secretion; ionizing radiation causes damage to normal tissues located in the radiation field. This becomes particularly evident in the head regions, a complex area made up of several different structures that respond differently to radiation. These changes are related to a worsening of oral health.

Therefore, there is a clear need for health professionals to be aware of these aspects, emphasizing the importance of the work of an oncology care team in which the dentist must be included.

I Seminário de Pensamento Científico na Odontologia

8 de novembro de 2023

9h às 12h