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Vascular leiomyosarcomas of the lower extremity

H. Wafa, A. Mahendra, E. MacDuff

West of Scotland Oncology Service, Glasgow Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Aim of the Work: Vascular leiomyosarcomas are rare. There are only few reports in the literature on the treatment and prognosis of these aggressive tumours. The aim of this study is to evaluate the current treatment protocols and the oncological outcome of the lower extremity leiomyosarcomas of vascular origin.

Methods: Between 1998 and 2014, 142 patients with leiomyosarcomas were treated at our institution. Seven patients (4.9%) with primary vascular leiomyosarcomas of the extremities were identified. There were 3 males and 4 females with a mean age of 72.6 years (range, 46 to 82 years). Three leiomyosarcomas arose from the femoral vein, 2 great saphenous vein, 1 anterior tibial vein, and one from the posterior tibial vein. Three patients (43%) had metastasis at presentation, while another patient developed metastasis at 3.5 months from diagnosis. Two patients had amputation, three patients had excision without vascular reconstruction followed by radiotherapy, while the remaining two patients had no surgery because of disseminated metastatic disease at diagnosis.

Results: At a mean followup of 38 months (range, 7 to 64 months), two patients were free from disease, three had died with metastatic disease, while two patients were alive with pulmonary metastases. The overall survival at 5 years was 44% as compared to 62% in those patients with leiomyosarcomas of non-vascular origin (p < 0.01).

Conclusions: Vascular leiomyosarcomas are rare but aggressive tumours with high rate of early metastasis and poor survival.