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Chemoradiation along with curcumin in the management of uterine cervical cancer

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Introduction: The cervical cancer is the most common gynecological cancer in the developing countries and the leading cause of cancer related mortality in women globally. The majority of the women in under-developed and developing nations present in locally advanced stages. The combination of radiation and chemotherapy is the standard of care for locally advanced cervical cancer. However, the toxicity is a matter of concern. So an attempt has been made in this prospective study to use curcumin as a radiosensitizer and at the same time as a protector of the normal tissues.

Materials & Methods: The study has been conducted in 80 women having stages of IIB to IVA by randomly dividing them into two groups. The patients of both the groups received external beam radiotherapy with the dose of 50 Gy in 25 fractions along with cisplatin 40mg/m² weekly for five weeks. This was followed by three fractions of high dose rate brachytherapy with a dose of 6 Gy per fraction. The patients of group-I only received curcumin 4 g per day.

Results: After six weeks of completion of treatment the patients were evaluated for response to treatment as per WHO criteria. There was a complete response in 72% in group-I and 66% in group-II. The patients who received curcumin experienced less cutaneous and mucosal reactions. The patients have been followed up for 4 years.

Conclusion: The follow up to 4 years of follow up shows advantage for those treated with curcumin in terms of overall survival.

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