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## Demographic characteristics of spinal cord injury due to tumor

Ilkin Mirzayev, Oya Umit Yemisci, Sevgi Ikbali Afsar, Sacide Nur Saracgil Cosar and Metin Karatas  
Baskent University, Turkey

**Objective:** To evaluate demographic and clinical characteristics of patients with spinal cord injury (SCI) due to tumor who were admitted to our rehabilitation program as an inpatient.

**Materials & Methods:** The sample consisted of 237 newly-injured patients with SCI whose medical records were retrospectively reviewed. A total of 14 patients (6 males, 8 females) with SCI developing due to tumor were included in the study.

**Results:** Mean age of patients was  $58 \pm 11.37$  years. Overall 50% (n=7) of the tumors were primary and 50% (n=7) were metastatic tumors. Based on neurological levels, 1 (7.1%) patient was tetraplegic, 11 (78.6%) were paraplegic and 2 (14.3%) had conus-cauda equina injury. The American Spinal Injury Association Impairment Scale (AIS) grade at admission was A in 7 (50%) patients, B in 1 (7.1%) patient, C in 2 (14.3%) patients, and D in 4 (28.5%) patients. One patient's AIS grade of C at admission became D at discharge. No change occurred in the AIS grade of the other patients. The mean inpatient duration was  $31 \pm 17$  days. The most common rehabilitation period complication was urinary tract infection (42.9%). At the end of the stay, 5 (35.7%) patients were urinary independent. While 1 (7.1%) patient was ambulated for therapeutic purposes, 6 (42.9%) patients were discharged at the wheelchair level and 7 (50%) patients at the ambulation within the community level at the end of the rehabilitation. A lower extremity orthosis was used by 2 (14.3%) patients and an assistive device for ambulation by 7 (50%) patients. The mean Functional Independence Measurement (FIM) motor score was  $38.77 \pm 22.93$  at admission and  $54.33 \pm 22.19$  at discharge with a mean FIM gain score of  $23.75 \pm 33.75$ .

**Conclusion:** Inpatient rehabilitation may increase the functional capacity of patients with SCI developing due to tumor.

[mr.mirzayev@gmail.com](mailto:mr.mirzayev@gmail.com)

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