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Prognostic Factors and Clinicopathologic Characteristics of Carcinoma of Ampulla of Vater

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Background: Effects of clinicopathologic characteristics and prognostic factors of carcinoma of ampulla of Vater on prognosis was the aim of the study.

Patients and Methods: Medical records of 32 patients with carcinoma of ampulla of Vater, who were admitted to and followed-up at the Department of Medical Oncology, Numune Hospital, and Department of Gastrointestinal Surgery, Turkiye Yuksek Hospital, were evaluated in this retrospective study. Clinicopathologic characteristics and survival data were recorded. Data were analyzed with a computer-based statistics package program. Survival analyses were calculated with Kaplan-Meier methods and the log-rank test.

Results: Twenty-four males and eight females with a median age of 59 years (range, 36-80 years) were included in the study. The most common presenting signs and symptoms were jaundice (65.6%) and abdominal pain (18.8%). Performance status was Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG)-0 in 4 patients (12.5%), ECOG-1 in 18 patients (56.3%), ECOG-2 in 8 patients (25%), and ECOG-3 in 2 patients (6.3%) at the

time of the admission. Fifteen patients had stage I and stage II disease (early stage), 15 patients had stage III and stage IV disease (locally advanced stage without distant metastasis), and stage was unknown in the remainder. Patients with known metastasis on admission were not included in the study. Twenty-eight of 32 patients underwent curative and three had palliative surgery. Eight patients (25%) had lymphatic vessel invasion and 6 patients (18.8%) had perineural invasion. Eleven patients had high-, 9 patients had moderate-, and 4 patients had low-grade histology. Fourteen patients had received adjuvant treatment: 10 patients had been treated with chemotherapy, 3 patients with chemoradiotherapy, and 1 patient with radiotherapy. ECOG performance status ($P=.06$), stage ($P=.05$), perineural invasion ($P=.01$), tumor grade ($P=.01$), and treatment with chemotherapy or chemoradiotherapy or only radiotherapy ($P=.001$) had a statistically significant effect on overall survival, while only tumor histopathology ($P<.001$) was shown to have a statistically significant effect on disease-free survival.

Conclusions: Carcinoma of the ampulla of Vater is a rare gastrointestinal tumor. Some clinicopathologic characteristics may have a significant effect on patient prognosis. Prospective trials with larger numbers of patients are needed to determine prognostic factors to help in the selection of patients for adjuvant treatment.