

The relationship of survival with pathologic factors in elderly gastric cancer patients(≥ 70 years)

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Background and Objective: To investigate the pathologic characteristic and prognostic factors of old age gastric cancer patients.

Methods: We enrolled 1082 patients with gastric cancer who underwent radical gastrectomy between January 2007 and December 2010 in our center. Patients were categorized into two groups: younger group (<70 years) and elderly group (≥ 70 years). Clinicopathological features were compared among the two groups and potential prognostic factors were analyzed. Univariate and multivariate analyses were performed to evaluate the independent factors of survival for patients aged ≥ 70 years.

Results: Elderly patients were more likely to have papillary and tubular adenocarcinoma, and advanced TNM stage. Cancers of poorly differentiated adenocarcinoma and less- depth of invasion were more common than in the younger groups. The total elderly patients 184 patients' 1-, 3-, 5-year survival rate were 83.7%、 53.3% and 45.7%. The 5-year survival rate was significantly lower in the younger groups than the elderly groups. With single variable analysis, sex and histological type were significant prognostic factors related to 1-year survival rate ($P < 0.05$). CEA, CA199, Borrmann type, depth of invasion, lymphatic metastasis and TNM stage had relationship with 3-year and 5-year survival rate ($P < 0.05$). With multiple variable analysis, lymphatic metastasis was independently prognostic of poor survival.

Conclusions: Age ≥ 70 years was an independent prognostic factor for gastric cancer after gastrectomy. Lymphatic metastasis was independently prognostic of poor survival for elderly patients. D2 lymphadenectomy is necessary for elderly patients with gastric cancer.

Key words: Gastric cancer; Elderly patients; Prognosis

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