

Abstract

Communication and feed monitoring of palliative care in head and neck cancer

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Background: Changing the communication and feed are major impact factors on quality of life. Hypotheses: The aim of this study was to describe the way communication and feeding of patients in late palliation for head and neck cancer.

Methods: Observational, case series

Results: We evaluated 10 patients with interval between the first and last visit of 7.25 months. Of these, 40% had preserved oral communication, and the remaining communicated by articulate speech in the presence of tracheostomy, speaks with changes / distortions and 10% made use of additional communications and / or alternative. Already oral feeding with overall diet was preserved in only one subject. Forty percent needed consistency adaptation, feeding exclusively of pasty or liquid thickened. Half of the subjects fed up by alternative pathway, four gastrostomy and by nasogastric tube. The means of communication and power did not change during the study period, and it was possible to maintain oral feeding and communication via speaks of those who started palliation in this way.