

CORRELATION OF EARLY RADIOTHERAPY RESULT WITH SUSTAINED LOCOREGIONAL CONTROL AND LONG TERM SURVIVAL
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142 advanced head and neck cancers received full dose irradiation (TDF 103). Complete regression rate evaluated 1 month after treatment amounts to 61% (75% for 44 stages III and 55% for 98 stages IV). Analysis according to Cox model points out early regression after radiotherapy (square chi 19,21) and Karnofsky index (square chi 18,62) as the only two significant parameters of survival. 71% and 55% of complete regressors respectively survive at 2 and 3 years as opposed to 26% and 19% of partial regressors; the median survival time varies from 42 to 12 months (p 0.001 log-rank test). Local failure later occurred in 13% (14/111) of completely regressed primary tumours but 52% (11/21) of partially regressed primaries recurred (p 0.001). The same pattern was observed at regional level: lack of control in 27% (11/41) of completely regressed lymph nodes while 57% (23/40) in partially regressed cervical metastasis (p 0.01).