

## Pathologic analysis of 4451 cases with digestive tract cancer

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### Abstract

**AIM:** To analyse pathological characteristics of 4451 cases of digestive tract cancer, and study its clinical significance.

**METHODS:** All cases were unselected patients of digestive tract cancer who were diagnosed and operated in our hospital during the period 1983-1997, and the diagnosis confirmed by pathological examination. Comparison was made between different age groups (young < 30, middle 30-40, old 40-70, very old > 70) on the basis of location of the primary cancer.

**RESULTS:** All patients aged from 7-87 years, mean 61 years, the

ratio of male to female is 2:1. The distribution of age is young (3.5%), middle (9.5%), old (70%), very old group (17%). Distribution of cancer is esophagus 17.1%, cardiac and gastric cancer, 50.7%, and carcinoma of large intestine, 31.6%. In the old and very old age groups well-differentiated and poorly differentiated squamous cell carcinoma of the esophagus, well-differentiated and poorly differentiated adenocarcinoma, myxoadenocarcinoma, papillary adenocarcinoma were significantly higher than those of young and middle age groups ( $P < 0.01$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ). Cardiac and gastric cancer have similar pathological presentations with adenocarcinoma predominates and adenosquamous carcinoma and squamous carcinoma occur infrequently. The incidence of poorly differentiated adenocarcinoma (79% of all cancer of the same location) and ring cell carcinoma (90% of all cancers of the same pathological type) is high in cardia and stomach among all cases. The metastatic rate of cardiac and gastric cancer is 11%; The recurrence rate of residual gastric cancer is 8% with high malignancy and poor prognosis. Precancerous lesions existed in 687 cases; The ratio to all cases is 1:6.5. There are 193 cases of early cancer (4.3% of all cases).

**CONCLUSION:** It is valuable to perform screening test to examine routinely (such as barium-air double contrast radiography, rectal touch, endoscopy + biopsy), as well as to get a timely pathological diagnosis for the detection and management of gastrointestinal tract carcinoma and early cancer, especially for young and middle age groups.

**Key words:** Digestive system neoplasms/pathology; Carcinoma, squamous cell/pathology; Adenocarcinoma/pathology; Precancerous conditions/pathology

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