Radiotherapy and ocular side effects: myths, beliefs and scientific evidences

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Statement of the Problem: Radiotherapy a curative treatment for majority of head and neck and base skull tumors. It's either postoperative or radical. The typical challenge in base skull or nasopharyngeal malignancies is the proximity of ocular structures (eye, optic nerve, optic chiasm). There have been numerous reports about dreaded and morbid side effects of incidental radiation dosage to these structures. Radiotherapy has improved enormously in previous decade and with modern technology any vision compromising side effects are rare. We will look at the techniques, known side effects, incidences and how we radiation oncologists perceive them.

Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: Literature reported incidences of ocular side effects while treating tumors in and around optic apparatus (base skull/nasopharynx/optic pathway gliomas/pituitary tumors) and their relevance in modern day radiotherapy.

Conclusion & Significance: With modern radiotherapy and improvement in imaging and treatment delivery these side effects are myth only. We hardly witness people becoming blind due to radiotherapy and it's a pure myth.

Recent Publications


Biography

Dr Trinanjan Basu is a practicing radiation oncologist from India. He has his training from Kolkata where he was born and then obtained specialized training from Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai. Currently he resides in Mumbai and working in a state of the art centre with latest radiation oncology facilities. During his training and early career he has been trained in all latest radiation oncology facilities in Mumbai and Delhi in all latest equipment. He has keen interest in clinical studies and has more than 25 peer reviewed journal publications, authored few books and editorial member of Cambridge Publishing House, UK. He has received grants and trainings from ESTRO and ESMO at Paris and Vienna respectively.

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