

Radiation Therapy for Oropharyngeal Squamous Cell Carcinoma: American Society of Clinical Oncology Endorsement of the American Society for Radiation Oncology Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guideline

Harry Quon, Neha Vapiwala, Arlene Forastiere, Erin B. Kennedy, David J. Adelstein, Holly Boykin, Joseph A. Califano, F. Chris Holsinger, Brian Nussenbaum, David I. Rosenthal, Lillian L. Siu, and John N. Waldron

A cura di Marchese Rita

Abstract

Obiettivo

L'ASTRO ha prodotto delle linee guida sulla radioterapia nel carcinoma squamoso dell'orofaringe rilevanti anche per l'ASCO che, dopo averle vagliate, ha optato per adottarle.

Metodi

Le linee guida ASTRO sono state riviste da un Panel di esperti ed approvate nella versione finale.

Risultati

Il Panel di esperti ASCO ha stabilito che le linee guida ASTRO pubblicate a luglio 2017 sono chiare, complete e basate su rilevanti evidenze scientifiche. L'ASCO ha approvato le linee guida ASTRO aggiungendo altre piccole informazioni.

Raccomandazioni

Vengono date raccomandazioni per l'aggiunta della terapia sistemica alla radioterapia nel trattamento del carcinoma squamoso dell'orofaringe (OPSCC), per la radioterapia postoperatoria associata o meno a terapia sistemica, per la chemioterapia di induzione con relative dosi, volumi e frazionamenti a seconda dei vari stadi di malattia.

INTRODUCTION

Nel 2016 si contano negli USA 48330 nuovi casi di OPSCC con aumentata incidenza di neoplasie HPV-correlate. Il trattamento include la chirurgia con o senza radioterapia adiuvante (con chemioterapia in casi selezionati) e radioterapia esclusiva con o senza chemioterapia. L'ASTRO ha pubblicato le proprie linee guida a luglio 2017 pur tralasciando la differenza di trattamento a seconda dello stato HPV. L'obiettivo delle linee guida ASCO è quello di valutare e approvare le linee guida ASTRO per il trattamento di OPSCC. Le linee guida ASTRO con le valutazioni ASCO vengono di seguito riportate (*modificazioni dell'ASCO in grassetto corsivo*).

Inoltre, le linee guida riportate non tengono conto dello stato HPV, sebbene alcuni studi stiano cercando di distinguere il trattamento in base a tale fattore. La stadiazione utilizzata è la VII edizione AJCC ma a gennaio 2018 sono previsti cambiamenti con la nuova stadiazione, anche in base allo stato HPV.

1. Raccomandazioni per l'aggiunta della terapia sistemica alla RT definitiva

In caso di malattia in stadio IVA-B

- Trattamento chemioterapico concomitante ad alte dosi con cisplatino dovrebbe essere prescritto nei pazienti candidati a RT definitiva (grado raccomandazione forte, evidenza alta).

- Un trattamento concomitante con cetuximab o carboplatino-fluorouracile **può** essere prescritto in associazione alla RT definitiva nei pazienti non candidabili clinicamente a ricevere un trattamento standard con cisplatino ad alte dosi (grado raccomandazione condizionale, evidenza alta).
- Trattamento concomitante con cisplatino settimanale può essere prescritto in associazione alla radioterapia nei pazienti non eleggibili clinicamente a ricevere un trattamento standard con cisplatino ad alte dosi, solo dopo un'attenta discussione che tenga conto delle preferenze del paziente e dei limitati dati prospettici presenti in letteratura a sostegno di tale associazione (grado raccomandazione condizionale, evidenza alta).
- I pazienti candidati a RT radicale non dovrebbero ricevere il cetuximab in combinazione al trattamento chemioterapico (grado raccomandazione forte, evidenza alta).
- I pazienti candidati a RT esclusiva non dovrebbero ricevere un trattamento chemioterapico intra-arterioso (grado raccomandazione forte, evidenza alta).

In caso di malattia in stadio III

- Trattamento chemioterapico concomitante dovrebbe essere prescritto nei pazienti T3 N0-1 candidati a RT definitiva. (grado raccomandazione forte, evidenza moderata).
- Trattamento sistemico concomitante può essere considerato nei pazienti affetti da OPSCC in stadio T1-T2 N1 candidati a RT definitiva e considerati ad alto rischio di recidiva loco-regionale, solo dopo un'attenta discussione che tenga conto delle preferenze del paziente e delle limitate evidenze a supporto di tale indicazione (grado raccomandazione condizionale, evidenza bassa).

In caso di malattia in stadio I-II

- Trattamento sistemico concomitante non dovrebbe essere prescritto nei pazienti candidati a RT definitiva.

2. Raccomandazioni per la radioterapia adiuvante con o senza terapia sistemica dopo chirurgia

In caso di margini positivi e/o estensione extracapsulare (ECE)

- Trattamento chemioterapico concomitante ad alta dose con cisplatino dovrebbe essere prescritto in associazione al trattamento RT post-operatorio nei pazienti con margini chirurgici positivi e/o con ECE, indipendentemente dalla positività o meno per HPV o dall'estensione della malattia extra-nodale (grado raccomandazione forte, evidenza moderata).
- Trattamento concomitante con cisplatino settimanale può essere prescritto in associazione alla RT post-operatoria per i pazienti non candidabili a trattamento standard con cisplatino ad alte dosi in considerazione delle preferenze del paziente e delle evidenze limitate a sostegno di questa schedula di trattamento (grado raccomandazione condizionale, evidenza bassa).
- Per i pazienti ad alto rischio non candidabili a ricevere un trattamento chemio- radioterapico concomitante a base di cisplatino è possibile effettuare un trattamento radioterapico esclusivo; considerando le evidenze limitate a sostegno di trattamenti chemioterapici alternativi, l'impiego di terapie sistemiche non a base di cisplatino andrebbe sempre preceduto da un'accurata discussione con il paziente in merito ai rischi e ai non chiari benefici dell'associazione di tale terapie con il trattamento radioterapico (grado raccomandazione forte, evidenza moderata).
- I pazienti trattati con RT post-operatoria non dovrebbero ricevere un trattamento chemioterapico concomitante a base di carboplatino settimanale (grado raccomandazione forte, evidenza moderata).
- I pazienti trattati con RT post-operatoria non dovrebbero ricevere un trattamento con Cetuximab, sia da solo che in associazione a chemioterapia, sebbene alcuni regimi siano attualmente in fase di studio (grado raccomandazione forte, evidenza bassa).

- I pazienti trattati con RT post-operatoria non dovrebbero ricevere routinariamente trattamento chemioterapico concomitante a base di docetaxel settimanale, in considerazione delle limitate evidenze a sostegno di tale associazione, sebbene alcuni regimi siano attualmente in fase di studio (grado raccomandazione forte, evidenza bassa).
- I pazienti trattati con RT post-operatoria non dovrebbero ricevere un trattamento chemioterapico concomitante a base di mitomicina-C, sia da sola che in associazione a bleomicina, in considerazione delle limitate evidenze ed esperienze a sostegno di tale impiego (grado raccomandazione forte, evidenza moderata).
- La chemioterapia post-operatoria non dovrebbe essere somministrata da sola o in maniera sequenziale alla RT adiuvante (grado raccomandazione forte, evidenza alta).

In caso di fattori patologici di rischio intermedio come invasione linfovaskolare (LVI), invasione perineurale (PNI), stadio T3-T4 o linfonodi positivi

- I pazienti con fattori di rischio intermedio non dovrebbero ricevere routinariamente un trattamento chemioterapico concomitante in associazione alla PORT (grado raccomandazione forte, evidenza moderata).
- I pazienti con fattori di rischio intermedio che sulla base dell'intervento chirurgico e/o delle caratteristiche patologiche della malattia presentano un rischio particolarmente elevato di recidiva loco-regionale possono ricevere una chemioterapia concomitante a base di cisplatino, solo dopo una attenta discussione in merito alle preferenze del paziente e alle evidenze limitate a sostegno dell'impiego della terapia sistemica in questo contesto; regimi terapeutici sistemici alternativi possono essere impiegati solo nell'ambito di trial clinici (grado raccomandazione condizionale, evidenza bassa).
- PORT dovrebbe essere prescritta in caso di malattia pT3 o pT4 (grado raccomandazione forte, evidenza bassa).
- PORT dovrebbe essere prescritta nei pazienti con malattia linfonodale pN2 o pN3 (grado raccomandazione forte, evidenza bassa).
- PORT potrebbe essere prescritta nei pazienti con malattia linfonodale pN1 *senza estensione linfonodale extracapsulare* e comunque solo dopo una attenta discussione che tenga conto delle preferenze del paziente e delle limitate evidenze circa l'outcome dopo chirurgia esclusiva in questo scenario (grado raccomandazione condizionale, evidenza bassa).
- PORT potrebbe essere prescritta nei pazienti con LVI e/o PNI come unico (i) fattore (i) di rischio comunque solo dopo una attenta discussione che tenga conto delle preferenze del paziente e delle limitate evidenze circa l'outcome dopo chirurgia esclusiva in questo scenario (grado raccomandazione condizionale, evidenza bassa).

In assenza di fattori patologici di rischio

- PORT può essere indicata in pazienti in assenza dei fattori patologici di rischio convenzionali solo qualora le evidenze cliniche e chirurgiche implicino un rischio particolarmente elevato di ripresa loco-regionale, comunque solo dopo un'attenta discussione che tenga conto delle preferenze del paziente e dei potenziali rischi e benefici associati al trattamento radiante (grado raccomandazione condizionale, evidenza bassa).

3. Raccomandazioni per l'utilizzo della chemioterapia di induzione

- La chemioterapia di induzione non dovrebbe essere utilizzata di routine (grado raccomandazione forte, evidenza alta).

4. Raccomandazioni sulle dosi appropriate, i frazionamenti e i volumi di trattamento appropriati della radioterapia dell'OPSCC in associazione o meno a terapia sistemica

In caso di trattamento esclusivo non-chirurgico

- Una dose totale di 70 Gy in 7 settimane dovrebbe essere prescritta alla malattia macroscopica sia primitiva che linfonodale nei pazienti affetti da OPSCC in stadio III-IV candidati a ricevere un trattamento radioterapico definitivo standard con singola dose giornaliera (grado raccomandazione forte, evidenza moderata).
- Una dose biologicamente equivalente a circa 50 Gy a 2 Gy per frazione o leggermente più alta dovrebbe essere prescritta elettivamente alle regioni clinicamente e radiologicamente negative per presenza di malattia ma a rischio per una diffusione microscopica del tumore (grado raccomandazione forte, evidenza bassa).
- Frazionamenti alterati dovrebbero essere impiegati in pazienti con OPSCC in stadio IVA-B trattati con RT definitiva e non candidati a ricevere una terapia sistemica concomitante (grado raccomandazione forte, evidenza alta).
- Sia un trattamento RT accelerato che un trattamento RT iperfrazionato possono essere impiegati in pazienti affetti da OPSCC per i quali è indicata una radioterapia definitiva con frazionamenti alterati, solo dopo una attenta discussione che tenga conto delle preferenze del paziente e delle limitate evidenze a sostegno di un particolare regime rispetto all'altro (grado raccomandazione condizionale, evidenza alta).
- Sia un trattamento RT standard che un trattamento radioterapico con frazionamento accelerato può essere utilizzato nel trattamento dell'OPSCC in associazione a terapia sistemica concomitante, dopo una attenta discussione che tenga conto delle preferenze del paziente e dei rischi e dei benefici di entrambi questi approcci (grado raccomandazione condizionale, evidenza alta).

NOTA ASCO: nel trial randomizzato controllato danese del gruppo testa-collo su 1485 pazienti con carcinoma squamoso del testa collo (laringe, faringe, cavità orale), la radioterapia standard veniva definita con dose tra 66 e 68 Gy in frazionamenti da 2 Gy per 5 frazioni/settimana rispetto al braccio di radioterapia accelerata con stessa dose ma con 6 frazioni/settimana.

- Frazionamenti alterati dovrebbero essere impiegati in pazienti con OPSCC in stadio T3N0-1 trattati con RT definitiva e non candidati a ricevere una terapia sistemica concomitante (grado raccomandazione forte, evidenza moderata).
- Frazionamenti alterati possono essere impiegati in pazienti con OPSCC in stadio T1-2 N1 o T2 N0 candidati a RT definitiva esclusiva e considerati a rischio particolarmente elevato di recidiva loco-regionale, comunque solo dopo un'attenta discussione che tenga conto delle preferenze del paziente e delle limitate evidenze a sostegno del loro utilizzo in questi casi (grado raccomandazione condizionale, evidenza bassa).

In caso di radioterapia adiuvante alla chirurgia

- Le regioni anatomiche a più alto rischio di ripresa loco-regionale di malattia (margini chirurgici microscopicamente positivi e regioni linfonodali con estensione extra-capsulare di malattia) dovrebbero ricevere una dose totale compresa tra 60 e 66 Gy con singola dose giornaliera di 2 Gy (grado raccomandazione forte, evidenza moderata).
- In caso di PORT non associata a terapia sistemica concomitante le regioni anatomiche a più alto rischio di ripresa di malattia (margini chirurgici microscopicamente positivi e regioni linfonodali con estensione extra-capsulare di malattia) dovrebbero ricevere una dose totale tra

60 Gy e 66 Gy con singola dose giornaliera di 2 Gy, sebbene ci siano dati limitati a sostegno di tale raccomandazione (grado raccomandazione condizionale, evidenza debole).

NOTA ASCO: in caso di trattamento radioterapico esclusivo dopo chirurgia, il tempo dall'intervento chirurgico alla fine della radioterapia deve essere il più breve possibile, idealmente <85 giorni.

- Il letto tumorale ed i livelli linfonodali positivi all'asportazione chirurgica dovrebbero ricevere una dose totale **pari a 56-60 Gy con singola dose giornaliera**, in assenza di margini positivi ed estensione linfonodale extra-capsulare (grado raccomandazione forte, evidenza moderata).

In caso di carcinoma tonsillare in stadio iniziale

- Trattamento radioterapico ipsilaterale dovrebbe essere indicato nei pazienti con una neoplasia della tonsilla in stadio T1-T2 N0-N1 ben lateralizzata confinata alla fossa tonsillare (grado raccomandazione forte, evidenza moderata).
- Trattamento radioterapico ipsilaterale potrebbe essere indicato nei pazienti con una neoplasia della tonsilla in stadio T1-T2 N0-N2a lateralizzata (con estensione al palato molle < a 1 cm ma senza coinvolgimento della base della lingua) in assenza di evidenza clinica o radiologica di estensione extracapsulare e comunque solo dopo un'attenta discussione che tenga conto delle preferenze del paziente, dei benefici di un trattamento unilaterale, della possibilità di ripresa di malattia a livello dei linfonodi controlaterali e delle possibili conseguenti terapie di salvataggio (grado raccomandazione condizionale, evidenza bassa).

ASTRO CLINICAL QUESTIONS AND TARGET POPULATION

Le linee guida dell'ASTRO prevedevano 4 domande per OPSCC: 1) quando è appropriato aggiungere la terapia sistemica alla radioterapia radicale nei vari stadi di malattia. 2) quando è appropriato utilizzare radioterapia postoperatoria con o senza terapia sistemica dopo chirurgia in caso di a) margini positivi e/o invasione linfonodale extracapsulare b) fattori patologici ad intermedio rischio come invasione linfovaskolare, invasione perineurale, malattia T3-T4 o linfonodi positive o c) nessun fattore patologico di rischio. 3) quando è appropriato l'utilizzo della chemioterapia di induzione. 4) quale dose, frazionamento, volumi in caso di a) terapia radicale non chirurgica, b) radioterapia postoperatoria, c) carcinoma tonsillare in stadio iniziale. La terapia sistemica al di fuori della radioterapia non era presa in considerazione nelle linee guida.

SUMMARY OF THE ASTRO GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT AND ASCO ENDORSEMENT METHODOLOGY

RESULTS OF THE ASCO METHODOLOGY REVIEW

Le linee guida dell'ASTRO hanno previsto una revisione sistematica della letteratura per le 4 domande tramite ricerca su PUBMED dal 1990 al 2014 tramite un Panel di esperti e successivamente l'ASCO ha utilizzato due staff di esperti che hanno lavorato indipendentemente.

METHODS AND RESULTS OF THE ASCO UPDATED LITERATURE REVIEW

Le linee guida ASCO hanno aggiornato l'esame della letteratura rispetto all'ASTRO aggiungendo la ricerca del MEDLINE dal 2014 al 2016. Sono state trovate ulteriori **due metanalisi (6,7)**, di cui la prima metteva a confronto la radiochemioterapia concomitante con la chemioterapia di induzione usando docetaxel, cisplatino e fluoruracile (TPF) seguita da RCT in un sottogruppo di 314 pazienti con

neoplasia dell'orofaringe non trovando differenze significative nella sopravvivenza globale e libera da progressione. L'altra metanalisi di 5 studi in cui il 51.3% era affetto da neoplasia dell'orofaringe ha dimostrato che la chemioterapia con TPF seguita da RCT concomitante non mostra differenze significative in termini di sopravvivenza globale e libera da progressione, rispetto a RCT concomitante da sola. Quindi, in accordo con le raccomandazioni ASTRO, gli autori concludevano che la chemioterapia di induzione con TPF prima della RCT non aumenta la sopravvivenza in pazienti con neoplasia testa-collo localmente avanzata.

Inoltre sono stati trovati **ulteriori due studi (8,9)** già inclusi dall'ASTRO ma con risultati a più lungo termine. Un update del trial ARO 95-06 ha mostrato che la radiochemioterapia accelerata iperfrazionata con mitomicinaC/fluoruracile resta superiore alla radioterapia accelerata iperfrazionata da sola in termini di controllo loco-regionale in pazienti con neoplasia dell'orofaringe. I risultati a lungo termine del trial ARTSCAN con pazienti randomizzati tra frazionamento accelerato (1.1 Gy + 2 Gy/die per 5 giorni/settimana per dose totale di 68 Gy) e frazionamento convenzionale (2 Gy/die per 5 giorni/settimana con dose totale di 68 Gy) hanno confermato che non vi è giovamento con il frazionamento accelerato.

DISCUSSION

Il Panel dell'ASCO ha ritenuto che le linee guida dell'ASTRO fossero utili e condivisibili aggiungendo solo piccole modifiche e raccomandazioni. Tuttavia non si è tenuto conto del tipo di chirurgia, per esempio la chirurgia robotica transorale e di come essa avrà impatto sulle terapie future. Infine la stadiazione tiene conto della VII edizione AJCC ma a gennaio 2018 sono previsti cambiamenti con la nuova stadiazione che distinguerà gruppi di rischio anche in base allo stato HPV.

Seguono tabelle riassuntive delle raccomandazioni ASTRO e modifiche eseguite da ASCO.

ASTRO Recommendation	ASCO Endorsement Recommendation (with modifications or qualifying statements in bold italics)	ASTRO Evidence Rating and Strength of Recommendations
Key Question 1 (Part 1): When is it appropriate to add systemic therapy to definitive radiotherapy in the treatment of OPSCC? In the scenario of stage IVA-IVB disease?	ASCO Qualifying Statement: For this version of the guideline, recommendations for radiation therapy for OPSCC do not vary by HPV status. Clinical trials are ongoing to assess the need for risk stratification in the treatment of OPSCC by HPV status. As such, these guidelines, though currently accurate, will likely need to be updated when such evidence becomes available in the future. In addition, the staging system that is referenced in these guidelines is the AJCC, 7th edition. With the implementation of the AJCC Manual, 8th edition, which is expected to begin on January 1, 2018, there will be important changes, such as stage migration due to reclassification of selected scenarios, and the divergence of OPSCC into two distinct prognostic groups based on HPV status. At that transition, these guidelines must be interpreted in the context of the two different staging systems.	
Recommendation 1A. Concurrent high-dose intermittent cisplatin should be delivered to patients with stage IVA-IVB OPSCC receiving definitive radiotherapy.	Recommendation 1A. Concurrent high-dose intermittent cisplatin should be delivered to patients with stage IVA-IVB OPSCC receiving definitive radiotherapy.	High-quality evidence, strong recommendation
Recommendation 1B. Concurrent cetuximab or carboplatin-fluorouracil should be delivered to patients with stage IVA-IVB OPSCC receiving definitive radiotherapy who are not medically fit for high-dose cisplatin.	Recommendation 1B. Concurrent cetuximab or carboplatin-fluorouracil may be delivered to patients with stage IVA-IVB OPSCC receiving definitive radiotherapy who are not medically fit for high-dose cisplatin.	High-quality evidence, conditional recommendation
Recommendation 1C. Concurrent weekly cisplatin may be delivered to patients with stage IVA-IVB OPSCC receiving definitive radiotherapy who are not medically fit for high-dose cisplatin, after a careful discussion of patient preferences and the limited prospective data supporting this regimen.	Recommendation 1C. Concurrent weekly cisplatin may be delivered to patients with stage IVA-IVB OPSCC receiving definitive radiotherapy who are not medically fit for high-dose cisplatin, after a careful discussion of patient preferences and the limited prospective data supporting this regimen.	Low-quality evidence, conditional recommendation
Recommendation 1D. Concurrent cetuximab should not be delivered in combination with chemotherapy to patients with stage IVA-IVB OPSCC receiving definitive radiotherapy.	Recommendation 1D. Concurrent cetuximab should not be delivered in combination with chemotherapy to patients with stage IVA-IVB OPSCC receiving definitive radiotherapy.	High-quality evidence, strong recommendation
Recommendation 1E. Intra-arterial chemotherapy should not be delivered to patients with stage IVA-IVB OPSCC receiving definitive radiotherapy.	Recommendation 1E. Intra-arterial chemotherapy should not be delivered to patients with stage IVA-IVB OPSCC receiving definitive radiotherapy.	High-quality evidence, strong recommendation
Key Question 1 (Part 2): When is it appropriate to add systemic therapy to definitive radiotherapy in the treatment of OPSCC? In the scenario of stage III disease:	systemic therapy to definitive radiotherapy in the treatment of OPSCC? In the scenario of stage III disease:	
Recommendation 1F. Concurrent systemic therapy should be delivered to patients with T3 N0-1 OPSCC receiving definitive radiotherapy.	Recommendation 1F. Concurrent systemic therapy should be delivered to patients with T3 N0-1 OPSCC receiving definitive radiotherapy.	Moderate-quality evidence, strong recommendation
Recommendation 1G. Concurrent systemic therapy may be delivered to patients with T1-T2 N1 OPSCC receiving definitive radiotherapy who are considered at particularly significant risk for locoregional recurrence, after a careful discussion of patient preferences and the limited evidence.	Recommendation 1G. Concurrent systemic therapy may be delivered to patients with T1-T2 N1 OPSCC receiving definitive radiotherapy who are considered at particularly significant risk for locoregional recurrence, after a careful discussion of patient preferences and the limited evidence.	Low-quality evidence, conditional recommendation
Key Question 1 (Part 3): When is it appropriate to add systemic therapy to definitive radiotherapy in the treatment of OPSCC? In the scenario of stage I-II disease:	systemic therapy to definitive radiotherapy in the treatment of OPSCC? In the scenario of stage I-II disease:	
Recommendation 1H. Concurrent systemic therapy should not be delivered to patients with stage I-II OPSCC receiving definitive radiotherapy.	Recommendation 1H. Concurrent systemic therapy should not be delivered to patients with stage I-II OPSCC receiving definitive radiotherapy.	Low-quality evidence, strong recommendation
Key Question 2 (Part 1): When is it appropriate to deliver postoperative radiotherapy with and without systemic therapy following primary surgery of OPSCC? In the scenario of positive margins and/or extracapsular nodal extension:	postoperative radiotherapy with and without systemic therapy following primary surgery of OPSCC? In the scenario of positive margins and/or extracapsular nodal extension:	
Recommendation 2A. Concurrent high-dose intermittent cisplatin should be delivered with postoperative radiotherapy to patients with positive surgical margins and/or extracapsular nodal extension; this high-risk population includes patients independent of HPV status or the extent of extranodal tumor.	Recommendation 2A. Concurrent high-dose intermittent cisplatin should be delivered with postoperative radiotherapy to patients with positive surgical margins and/or extracapsular nodal extension; this high-risk population includes patients independent of HPV status or the extent of extranodal tumor.	Moderate-quality evidence, strong recommendation

ASTRO Recommendation	ASCO Endorsement Recommendation (with modifications or qualifying statements in bold italics)	ASTRO Evidence Rating and Strength of Recommendations
Recommendation 2B. Concurrent weekly cisplatin may be delivered with postoperative radiotherapy to patients who are considered inappropriate for standard high-dose intermittent cisplatin after a careful discussion of patient preferences and the limited evidence supporting this treatment schedule.	Recommendation 2B. Concurrent weekly cisplatin may be delivered with postoperative radiotherapy to patients who are considered inappropriate for standard high-dose intermittent cisplatin after a careful discussion of patient preferences and the limited evidence supporting this treatment schedule.	Low-quality evidence, conditional recommendation
Recommendation 2C. For the high-risk postoperative patient unable to receive cisplatin-based concurrent chemoradiotherapy, radiotherapy alone should be routinely delivered without concurrent systemic therapy; given the limited evidence supporting alternative regimens, treatment with noncisplatin systemic therapy should be accompanied by a careful discussion of the risks and unknown benefits of the combination.	Recommendation 2C. For the high-risk postoperative patient unable to receive cisplatin-based concurrent chemoradiotherapy, radiotherapy alone should be routinely delivered without concurrent systemic therapy; given the limited evidence supporting alternative regimens, treatment with noncisplatin systemic therapy should be accompanied by a careful discussion of the risks and unknown benefits of the combination.	Moderate-quality evidence, strong recommendation
Recommendation 2D. Patients treated with postoperative radiotherapy should not receive concurrent weekly carboplatin.	Recommendation 2D. Patients treated with postoperative radiotherapy should not receive concurrent weekly carboplatin.	Moderate-quality evidence, strong recommendation
Recommendation 2E. Patients treated with postoperative radiotherapy should not receive cetuximab, either alone or in combination with chemotherapy, although such regimens are currently under investigation.	Recommendation 2E. Patients treated with postoperative radiotherapy should not receive cetuximab, either alone or in combination with chemotherapy, although such regimens are currently under investigation.	Low-quality evidence, strong recommendation
Recommendation 2F. Patients treated with postoperative radiotherapy should not routinely receive concurrent weekly docetaxel given the limited evidence supporting its use, although such regimens are currently under investigation.	Recommendation 2F. Patients treated with postoperative radiotherapy should not routinely receive concurrent weekly docetaxel given the limited evidence supporting its use, although such regimens are currently under investigation.	Low-quality evidence, strong recommendation
Recommendation 2G. Patients treated with postoperative radiotherapy should not receive concurrent mitomycin-C, alone or with bleomycin, given the limited evidence and experience supporting its use.	Recommendation 2G. Patients treated with postoperative radiotherapy should not receive concurrent mitomycin-C, alone or with bleomycin, given the limited evidence and experience supporting its use.	Moderate-quality evidence, strong recommendation
Recommendation 2H. Postoperative chemotherapy should not be delivered alone or sequentially with postoperative radiotherapy.	Recommendation 2H. Postoperative chemotherapy should not be delivered alone or sequentially with postoperative radiotherapy.	High-quality evidence, strong recommendation
Key Question 2 (Part 2): When is it appropriate to deliver postoperative radiotherapy with and without systemic therapy following primary surgery of OPSCC? In the scenario of intermediate-risk pathologic factors, such as LVI, PNI, T3-4 disease, or positive lymph nodes:	Recommendation 2I. Patients with intermediate risk factors should not routinely receive concurrent systemic therapy with postoperative radiotherapy.	Moderate-quality evidence, strong recommendation
Recommendation 2J. Patients with intermediate-risk factors whose surgical procedure and/or pathologic findings imply a particularly significant risk of locoregional recurrence may receive concurrent cisplatin-based chemotherapy after a careful discussion of patient preferences and the limited evidence supporting its use in this scenario; alternative systemic treatment regimens should only be used in the context of a clinical trial.	Recommendation 2J. Patients with intermediate-risk factors whose surgical procedure and/or pathologic findings imply a particularly significant risk of locoregional recurrence may receive concurrent cisplatin-based chemotherapy after a careful discussion of patient preferences and the limited evidence supporting its use in this scenario; alternative systemic treatment regimens should only be used in the context of a clinical trial.	Low-quality evidence, conditional recommendation
Recommendation 2K. Postoperative radiotherapy should be delivered to patients with pathologic T3 or T4 disease.	Recommendation 2K. Postoperative radiotherapy should be delivered to patients with pathologic T3 or T4 disease.	Low-quality evidence, strong recommendation
Recommendation 2L. Postoperative radiotherapy should be delivered to patients with pathologic N2 or N3 disease.	Recommendation 2L. Postoperative radiotherapy should be delivered to patients with pathologic N2 or N3 disease.	Low-quality evidence, strong recommendation
Recommendation 2M. Postoperative radiotherapy may be delivered to patients with pathologic N1 disease after a careful discussion of patient preferences and the limited evidence of outcomes following surgery alone in this scenario.	Recommendation 2M. Postoperative radiotherapy may be delivered to patients with pathologic N1 disease after a careful discussion of patient preferences and the limited evidence of outcomes following surgery alone in this scenario.	Low-quality evidence, conditional recommendation

ASTRO Recommendation	ASCO Endorsement Recommendation (with modifications or qualifying statements in bold italics)	ASTRO Evidence Rating and Strength of Recommendations
Recommendation 2N. Postoperative radiotherapy may be delivered to patients with LVI and/or PNI as the only risk factor(s) after a careful discussion of patient preferences and the limited evidence of outcomes following surgery alone in this scenario.	Recommendation 2N. Postoperative radiotherapy may be delivered to patients with LVI and/or PNI as the only risk factor(s) after a careful discussion of patient preferences and the limited evidence of outcomes following surgery alone in this scenario.	Low-quality evidence, conditional recommendation
Key Question 2 (Part 3): When is it appropriate to deliver postoperative radiotherapy with and without systemic therapy following primary surgery of OPSCC? In the scenario of no pathologic factors:		
Recommendation 2O. Postoperative radiotherapy may be delivered to patients without conventional adverse pathologic risk factors only if the clinical and surgical findings imply a particularly significant risk of locoregional recurrence, after a careful discussion of patient preferences and the potential harms and benefits of radiotherapy.	Recommendation 2O. Postoperative radiotherapy may be delivered to patients without conventional adverse pathologic risk factors only if the clinical and surgical findings imply a particularly significant risk of locoregional recurrence, after a careful discussion of patient preferences and the potential harms and benefits of radiotherapy.	Low-quality evidence, conditional recommendation
Key Question 3: When is it appropriate to use induction chemotherapy in the treatment of OPSCC?		
Recommendation 3A. Induction chemotherapy should not be routinely delivered to patients with OPSCC.	Recommendation 3A. Induction chemotherapy should not be routinely delivered to patients with OPSCC.	High-quality evidence, strong recommendation
Key Question 4 (Part 1): What are the appropriate dose, fractionation, and volume regimens with and without systemic therapy in the treatment of OPSCC? In the scenario of definitive nonsurgical therapy:		
Recommendation 4A. A dose of 70 Gy over 7 weeks should be delivered to gross primary and nodal disease in patients with stage III-IV OPSCC selected to receive standard, once-daily definitive radiotherapy.	Recommendation 4A. A dose of 70 Gy over 7 weeks should be delivered to gross primary and nodal disease in patients with stage III-IV OPSCC selected to receive standard, once-daily definitive radiotherapy.	Moderate-quality evidence, strong recommendation
Recommendation 4B. The biologically equivalent dose of approximately 50 Gy in 2 Gy fractions or slightly higher should be delivered electively to clinically and radiographically negative regions at risk for microscopic spread of tumor.	Recommendation 4B. The biologically equivalent dose of approximately 50 Gy in 2 Gy fractions or slightly higher should be delivered electively to clinically and radiographically negative regions at risk for microscopic spread of tumor.	Low-quality evidence, strong recommendation
Recommendation 4C. Altered fractionation should be used in patients with stage IVA-IVB OPSCC treated with definitive radiotherapy who are not receiving concurrent systemic therapy.	Recommendation 4C. Altered fractionation should be used in patients with stage IVA-IVB OPSCC treated with definitive radiotherapy who are not receiving concurrent systemic therapy.	High-quality evidence, strong recommendation
Recommendation 4D. Either accelerated radiotherapy or hyperfractionated radiotherapy may be used in patients with OPSCC treated with altered fractionation definitive radiotherapy after a careful discussion of patient preferences and the limited evidence supporting one regimen over the other.	Recommendation 4D. Either accelerated radiotherapy or hyperfractionated radiotherapy may be used in patients with OPSCC treated with altered fractionation definitive radiotherapy after a careful discussion of patient preferences and the limited evidence supporting one regimen over the other.	High-quality evidence, conditional recommendation
Recommendation 4E. Either standard, once-daily radiotherapy or accelerated fractionation may be used when treating OPSCC with concurrent systemic therapy after a careful discussion of patient preferences and the risks and benefits of both approaches.	Recommendation 4E. Either standard, once-daily radiotherapy or accelerated fractionation may be used when treating OPSCC with concurrent systemic therapy after a careful discussion of patient preferences and the risks and benefits of both approaches. <i>ASCO qualifying statement: In the Danish Head and Neck Cancer Group randomized controlled trial of 1,485 patients with squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck (larynx, pharynx, and oral cavity), standard radiotherapy was defined as 66-68 Gy, delivered in 2-Gy fractions, five fractions per week, compared with the accelerated arm, which received the same dose at a rate of six fractions per week, resulting in the same dose delivered over 7 or 6 weeks, respectively.⁴</i>	High-quality evidence, conditional recommendation
Recommendation 4F. Altered fractionation should be used in patients with T3 N0-1 OPSCC treated with definitive radiotherapy who do not receive concurrent systemic therapy.	Recommendation 4F. Altered fractionation should be used in patients with T3 N0-1 OPSCC treated with definitive radiotherapy who do not receive concurrent systemic therapy.	Moderate-quality evidence, strong recommendation
Recommendation 4G. Altered fractionation may be used in patients with T1-2 N1 or T2 N0 OPSCC treated with definitive radiotherapy alone who are considered at particularly significant risk of locoregional recurrence, after a careful discussion of patient preferences and the limited evidence supporting its use in this scenario.	Recommendation 4G. Altered fractionation may be used in patients with T1-2 N1 or T2 N0 OPSCC treated with definitive radiotherapy alone who are considered at particularly significant risk of locoregional recurrence, after a careful discussion of patient preferences and the limited evidence supporting its use in this scenario.	Low-quality evidence, conditional recommendation

ASTRO Recommendation	ASCO Endorsement Recommendation (with modifications or qualifying statements in bold italics)	ASTRO Evidence Rating and Strength of Recommendations
Key Question 4 (Part 2): What are the appropriate dose, fractionation, and volume regimens with and without systemic therapy in the treatment of OPSCC? In the scenario of adjuvant postoperative radiotherapy:		
Recommendation 4H. Adjuvant postoperative radiotherapy should be delivered to regions of microscopically positive primary site surgical margins and extracapsular nodal extension at 2 Gy/fraction once daily to a total dose between 60 and 66 Gy.	Recommendation 4H. Adjuvant postoperative radiotherapy should be delivered to regions of microscopically positive primary site surgical margins and extracapsular nodal extension at 2 Gy/fraction once daily to a total dose between 60 and 66 Gy.	Moderate-quality evidence, strong recommendation
Recommendation 4I. Adjuvant postoperative radiotherapy delivered without concurrent systemic therapy should treat regions of microscopically positive primary site surgical margins and extracapsular nodal extension at 2 Gy/fraction once daily to a total dose of 66 Gy, although there are limited data guiding this recommendation.	Recommendation 4I. Adjuvant postoperative radiotherapy delivered without concurrent systemic therapy should treat regions of microscopically positive primary site surgical margins and extracapsular nodal extension at 2 Gy/fraction once daily to a total dose of 60-66 Gy , although there are limited data guiding this recommendation. ASCO qualifying statement: In the setting of single-modality postoperative radiotherapy, the time from surgery to the completion of radiotherapy should be kept as short as possible, ideally < 85 day, as the time to completion of postoperative radiotherapy may be the most important radiotherapy factor and not the dose per se.	Low-quality evidence, conditional recommendation
Recommendation 4J. Adjuvant postoperative radiotherapy should be delivered to the tumor bed and involved, dissected lymph node regions at 2 Gy/fraction once daily to a total dose of 60 Gy in the absence of primary site positive margins and extracapsular nodal extension.	Recommendation 4J. Adjuvant postoperative radiotherapy should be delivered to the tumor bed and involved, dissected lymph node regions at once daily fractionation to a total dose of 56-60 Gy in the absence of primary site positive margins and extracapsular nodal extension.	Moderate-quality evidence, strong recommendation
Key Question 4 (Part 3): What are the appropriate dose, fractionation, and volume regimens with and without systemic therapy in the treatment of OPSCC? In the scenario of early T-stage tonsillar carcinoma:		
Recommendation 4K. Unilateral radiotherapy should be delivered to patients with well-lateralized (no soft palate extension or base of tongue involvement), T1-T2 tonsillar cancer and N0-N1 nodal category.	Recommendation 4K. Unilateral radiotherapy should be delivered to patients with well-lateralized (no soft palate extension or base of tongue involvement), T1-T2 tonsillar cancer and N0-N1 nodal category.	Moderate-quality evidence, strong recommendation
Recommendation 4L. Unilateral radiotherapy may be delivered to patients with lateralized (< 1 cm of soft palate extension but without base of tongue involvement) T1-T2 N0-N2a tonsillar cancer without clinical or radiographic evidence of extracapsular extension, after careful discussion of patient preferences and the relative benefits of unilateral treatment versus the potential for contralateral nodal recurrence and subsequent salvage treatment.	Recommendation 4L. Unilateral radiotherapy may be delivered to patients with lateralized (< 1 cm of soft palate extension but without base of tongue involvement) T1-T2 NO-N2b tonsillar cancer without clinical or radiographic evidence of extracapsular extension, after careful discussion of patient preferences and the relative benefits of unilateral treatment versus the potential for contralateral nodal recurrence and subsequent salvage treatment.	Low-quality evidence, conditional recommendation

Abbreviations: AJCC, American Joint Committee on Cancer Staging Manual; ASTRO, American Society for Radiation Oncology; HPV, human papillomavirus; LVI, lymphovascular invasion; OPSCC, oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma; PNI, perineural invasion.

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