RISK FACTORS FOR EARLY RECURRENCE IN ESOPHAGEAL CANCER: ANALYSIS OF TUMOR-INFILTRATING IMMUNE CELLS

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UEG Week Copenhagen 2023 | Poster

Oesophagus

October 15, 2023

A retrospective study of 63 esophageal cancer patients found that low CD8-positive and Foxp3-positive tumor-infiltrating lymphocyte counts, along with high ratios of exhausted T cells, were associated with recurrence within one year after radical surgery.

KEY POINTS

- Patients with early recurrence (within 1 year, n=26) had significantly lower CD8-positive lymphocyte counts compared to non-early recurrence patients (n=37), with multivariate analysis showing CD8 count as an independent factor for early recurrence (odds ratio 5.17, p=0.01).
- Foxp3-positive lymphocyte counts were also significantly lower in the early recurrence group, and patients with low levels of both CD8 and Foxp3 combined with high ratios of exhausted T lymphocytes (TIM3/CD8, PD1/CD8) had worse 1-year recurrence-free survival.
- Among patients categorized by CD8 and Foxp3 levels, those with high levels of both markers had better prognosis while those with low levels of both had worse prognosis.
- The authors suggest that tumor immune microenvironment evaluation may aid in selecting esophageal cancer patients for adjuvant treatment and plan future investigation of correlation with immune checkpoint inhibitor response rates.

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