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Enteral glutamine supplementation in surgical patients with head and neck malignancy: A randomized controlled trial

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Background: Glutamine supplementation is a novel approach to perioperative nutritional management.

Methods: This study was a prospective randomized clinical trial of effects of enteral glutamine supplementation in surgical patients with head and neck malignancy in a tertiary center. This study measured the effects of supplementation within 4 weeks of the postoncologic surgical period in relation to fat-free mass, serum albumin, and quality of life scores.

Results: The study population consisted of 44 patients. There was significant difference in serum albumin ($p<0.001$), fat-free mass ($p<0.001$) and quality of life scores ($p<0.05$) between control and interventional groups. Significant correlation exists between fat-free mass and quality of life score difference in our study population ($p<0.05$).

Conclusion: Enteral glutamine supplementation significantly improves fat-free mass, serum albumin and quality of life scores post-operatively and maintenance of lean body mass correlated with improved postoperative outcomes in terms of the patient's quality of life.

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Dysregulated expression of dicer in invasive ductal breast carcinoma

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Background & Aims: Impaired micro-RNAs processing pathway is one possible mechanism for global down-regulation of the mi-RNAome. Dicer is a key enzyme in mi-RNA processing pathway and dysregulation of its expression has been suggested as a possible cause of mi-RNAome alterations observed in various cancers. However, Dicer mRNA expression in invasive ductal breast carcinoma (IDC) has not been investigated in depth. Therefore, this study aimed to evaluate the mRNA expression of Dicer in IDC and also to assess the correlation of its expression with clinicopathological parameters including age, histological grade, tumor size and lymph node metastasis.

Methodology: We investigated the expression of the Dicer in seventy fresh invasive ductal breast carcinomas and matched adjacent non-neoplastic tissue by quantitative real-time PCR using validated reference genes. In addition, the possible impact of clinicopathological characteristics on Dicer expression levels was analyzed.

Results: Our results showed that Dicer mRNA expression is down-regulated in slightly more than half (51.43%) of the tumor specimens when compared to adjacent non-neoplastic tissue. Comparison of the Dicer expression level between tumor and matched adjacent non-neoplastic tissue showed that there is no statistical significant differences between them ($P=0.425$). We also found that Dicer mRNA expression in IDC samples was not correlated with clinicopathological features.

Conclusion: Our findings provide additional evidence to support the hypothesis that Dicer expression down-regulated in breast cancer. This study suggested that the decreased expression of Dicer may be potential underlying mechanism in pathogenesis of IDC.

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