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Contemporary Outcomes of Primary Tracheal Cancer

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Background: Primary tracheal tumors are exceedingly rare, resulting in limited available outcomes data, particularly regarding contemporary treatments and responses to immunotherapy.

Objectives: This study aimed to investigate treatment patterns and outcomes for primary tracheal cancer at a high-volume cancer center, focusing on overall survival rates among non-metastatic patients initially treated with surgical and non-surgical interventions. Additionally, it sought to explore response rates and overall survival among patients receiving immunotherapy.

Methods: A retrospective review of 92 patient charts at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) with International Classification of Diseases (ICD) codes C33 and C339 was conducted, covering the period from 2010 to 2023. Exclusion criteria were applied to remove secondary tracheal tumors, metastatic cases, recurrences, and patients treated outside of MSK after their initial consultation.

Conclusion: Findings indicate a higher overall survival rate among non-metastatic patients initially treated with surgical intervention compared to non-surgical intervention. Moreover, patients treated with immunotherapy exhibited a mean Progression-Free Survival (PFS) of 24.9 months (95% CI 9.6-40.2). These results contribute to understanding treatment outcomes and may inform future therapeutic approaches for primary tracheal cancer.