

OP 48: Demographic and clinical profile of adult Sri Lankans with hepatocellular carcinoma admitted to medical units of a tertiary referral center

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Introduction and Objectives: Objectives were to study the demographic and clinical profile of adult Sri Lankans with hepatocellular carcinoma over the last 4 years.

Methods: Clinical notes of 42 patients with hepatoma admitted to medical units at Sri Jayawardenepura General Hospital, Kotte from January 2008 to January 2012 were retrospectively analysed.

Results: The age range was 43-91 years with a mean age of 65.5 ± 11.1 . Sex distribution was male: female (9:1). Of the sample 90.5% were dependent on alcohol. Established liver disease at the time of diagnosis was seen in 57.1%. Radiological evidence of cirrhosis was present in 27.7% of patients with undiagnosed liver disease at presentation. On presentation ascites, abdominal pain, hepatic encephalopathy, anorexia and weight loss were found in 38.1%, 19%, 19%, 16.7% and 14.7% respectively. Uni-focal tumours were found in 61.9%. Secondaries were seen in 11.9%. The detectable sites were lymph nodes, bones, lungs, and the inferior vena cava extending into the right atrium. Hepatitis B and C infection were not identified. The available curative therapeutic modalities were minimal.

Conclusions: A marked male dominance was seen. Alcohol dependence was the commonest cause. Hepatoma can be the first presentation of undiagnosed liver disease. In all patients the diagnosis was made at an advanced stage of the tumour resulting in poor prognosis. We recommend that ultrasound scanning of the abdomen and alpha-feto protein estimation is done every six months in patients with chronic liver disease.