

OSTEO-RADIO-NECROSIS OF THE JAWS — A STUDY OF THIRTEEN CASES

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Osteo-radio-necrosis could be expected to be a special problem in the jaws because of the presence of teeth. However with the use of modern methods of radiotherapy the phenomenon is seldom seen even in the jaws.

As 13 cases of osteo-radio-necrosis were discovered at General Hospital, Kandy during a period of five years, an attempt was made to find a possible precipitating factor.

A control group of 15 subjects, treated for oral malignancy with a similar dose of radiotherapy, and of similar age and social status, and who were free of general illnesses were selected. The following possible causative factors came under investigation: (a) Oral hygiene status (b) Anaemia (c) Extraction or trauma.

The mean total dose of radiation was 6000 rads, in both groups. No extractions were done after therapy and all teeth in the affected side had been removed prior to therapy. The mean haemoglobin level of the group with necrosis (7.6.g %) was significantly lower ($p < 0.05$) than that of the control group (8.8. g %). There was no significant difference ($p < 0.05$) in the oral hygiene status of the two groups.

References

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