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Table 1: Patient, tumour and treatment details in whole cohort (n=181)

	Overall (n=181)	Prophylactic gastrostomy (n=97)	NG as required (n=84)	p- value
Age (Median, range)	56.8 (30.4-71.7)	57.5 (42.9-70.6)	57.1 (30.4-71.7)	0.405
Gender				
Male	142 (78%)	75 (77%)	67 (80%)	0.452
Female	39 (22%)	22 (23%)	17 (20%)	
Smoking				
Never	59 (33%)	36 (37%)	23 (27%)	0.401
Ex	74 (41%)	38 (39%)	36 (43%)	
Current	41 (23%)	20 (21%)	21 (25%)	
Not recorded	7 (4%)	3 (3%)	4 (5%)	
Alcohol				
None	37 (20%)	23 (24%)	14 (17%)	0.042
Moderate	106 (59%)	49 (51%)	57 (68%)	
Heavy	32 (18%)	22 (23%)	10 (12%)	
Not recorded	6 (3%)	3 (3%)	3 (4%)	
Oropharynx subsite				
Tonsil	108 (60%)	56 (58%)	52 (62%)	0.453
BOT	65 (36%)	38 (39%)	27 (32%)	
Other	8 (4%)	3 (3%)	5 (6%)	
T stage				
T1	29 (16%)	11 (11%)	18 (21%)	0.029
T2	89 (49%)	45 (46%)	44 (52%)	
T3	23 (13%)	13 (13%)	10 (12%)	
T4	40 (22%)	28 (29%)	12 (14%)	
Nodal stage				
N0	17 (9%)	16 (16%)	1 (1%)	0.709
N1	26 (14%)	8 (8%)	18 (21%)	
N2a	15 (8%)	12 (12%)	3 (4%)	
N2b	86 (48%)	37 (38%)	49 (58%)	
N2c	34 (19%)	22 (23%)	12 (14%)	
N3	3 (2%)	2 (2%)	1 (1%)	
Histological grade				
1/2	52 (29%)	28 (29%)	24 (29%)	0.394
3	103 (57%)	48 (49%)	55 (65%)	
Not graded	26 (14%)	21 (22%)	5 (6%)	
Induction chemotherapy				
None	157 (87%)	76 (78%)	81 (96%)	<0.001
TPF	19 (13%)	17 (18%)	2 (2%)	
PF	5 (3%)	4 (4%)	1 (1%)	
RT dose				

65Gy in 30 fractions	3 (2%)	2 (2%)	1 (1%)	0.647
70Gy in 35 fractions	178 (98%)	95 (98%)	83 (99%)	
Concurrent chemotherapy				
Cisplatin	160 (88%)	82 (85%)	78 (93%)	0.081
Carboplatin	21 (12%)	15 (15%)	6 (6%)	
No. of concurrent chemotherapy cycles				
1	10 (6%)	4 (4%)	6 (7%)	0.653
2	163 (90%)	89 (92%)	74 (88%)	
3	8 (4%)	4 (4%)	4 (5%)	
Pre-treatment oral intake				
NBM	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0.073
Sips	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	
Pureed	3 (2%)	3 (3%)	0 (0%)	
Soft	24 (13%)	17 (18%)	7 (8%)	
Normal	143 (79%)	75 (77%)	68 (81%)	
Not recorded	11 (6%)	2 (2%)	9 (11%)	
Median pre-treatment weight/kg (range)	83.9 (42-142)	83.5 (49-132)	86 (55-122)	0.652
Median BMI (range)	27.9 (14.7-45.7)	28.1 (19.6-39.5)	28.7 (20.0-36.9)	0.410
Median end of treatment weight/kg (range)	73.4 (41.3-128)	74 (46.9-128)	75.9 (53-107.7)	0.755
Median % weight change (range)	-8.8 (+1.9 to -23.1)	-7.0 (+1.9 to -19.8)	-9.4 (-1.8 to -19.3)	<0.001
End of treatment oral intake				
NBM	56 (31%)	36 (37%)	20 (24%)	0.037
Sips	71 (39%)	42 (43%)	29 (35%)	
Pureed	17 (9%)	6 (6%)	11 (13%)	
Soft	27 (15%)	9 (9%)	18 (21%)	
Normal	2 (1%)	1 (1%)	1 (1%)	
Not recorded	8 (4%)	3 (3%)	5 (6%)	
Enteral feed				
No	43 (24%)	8 (8%)	35 (42%)	<0.001
Yes	138 (76%)	89 (92%)	49 (58%)	
Median duration of enteral feeding post-CRT/months	2.79 (0.1-72.3)	3.3 (0.4-72.3)	1.28 (0.1-25.6)	<0.001

Table 2: MDADI scores according to intended enteral feeding route (n=181)

	Overall (n=181)	Prophylactic gastrostomy (n=97)	NG as required (n=84)	p-value (prophylactic gastrostomy v. NG as required)
Composite: Median (IQR)	66.3 (52.6-78.9)	65.3 (51.6-78.9)	67.9 (54.7-78.9)	0.25
Global: Median (IQR)	80.0 (40-80)	80 (40-80)	80 (40-80)	0.72
Emotional: Median (IQR)	70.0 (56.7-83.3)	66.7 (50-80)	73.3 (56.7-83.3)	0.14
Functional: Median (IQR)	72.0 (52.0-80.0)	68.0 (48-80)	74 (56-81)	0.15
Physical: Median (IQR)	60.0 (50-75.0)	60 (47.5-72.5)	60 (51.9-75)	0.63

*IQR=interquartile range

Table 3: Correlation between clinical factors and composite MDADI score

	Whole cohort (n=181)		Patients offered choice of prophylactic gastrostomy or NG as required (n=116)	
	Spearman's rho for continuous variables and ordinal data with >2 groups (median scores shown for significantly different groups testing using Mann Whitney U or Kruskall Wallis tests)	p value	Spearman's rho for continuous variables and ordinal data with >2 groups (median scores shown for significantly different groups testing using Mann Whitney U or Kruskall Wallis tests)	p value
Age	0.082	0.272	0.180	0.054
Gender		0.120		0.164
Smoking history	Never median: 67.4 Ex median: 67.9 Current median: 58.9	0.086	Never median: 68.4 Ex median: 68.4 Current 3 median: 57.9	0.011
Alcohol		0.687		0.797
Subsite		0.736		0.586
T stage		0.703		0.279
N stage		0.321		0.563
Grade		0.121		0.074
Induction chemo		0.160		0.565
No. concurrent chemo cycles	-0.019	0.259	0.059	0.530
Route of enteral feed (prophylactic gastrostomy or NG as needed)		0.250		0.146
Use of enteral feed	Median without EF: 69.5 Median with EF: 65.3	0.022		0.146
Pre-treatment diet	0.205	0.007	0.079	0.407
Pre-treatment BMI	-0.025	0.737	0.008	0.935
Post-treatment diet	0.204	0.007	0.146	0.124
% weight loss	0.062	0.459	-0.039	0.713
Duration of enteral feed post- treatment	-0.274	0.003	-0.240	0.035

*Statistically significant results in bold.