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Supplementary Table 1: Characteristics of 23 patients who did not return MDADI questionnaires

Age (Median, range)	57.2 (30.4-71.7)
Gender	
Male	91 (78%)
Female	25 (22%)
Smoking	
Never	39 (34%)
Ex	50 (43%)
Current	23 (20%)
Not recorded	4 (3%)
Alcohol	
None	24 (21%)
Moderate	71 (61%)
Heavy	19 (16%)
Not recorded	2 (2%)
Oropharynx subsite	
Tonsil	69 (59%)
BOT	43 (37%)
Other	4 (3%)
T stage	
T1	16 (14%)
T2	62 (53%)
T3	14 (12%)
T4	24 (21%)
Nodal stage	
N0	12 (10%)
N1	19 (16%)
N2a	12 (10%)
N2b	51 (44%)
N2c	20 (17%)
N3	2 (17%)
Histological Grade	
1/2	36 (31%)
3	65 (56%)
Not graded	15 (13%)
Induction chemotherapy	
None	105 (91%)
TPF	9 (8%)
PF	2 (2%)
RT dose	
65Gy in 30 fractions	2 (2%)
70Gy in 35 fractions	114 (98%)

Concurrent chemotherapy	
Cisplatin	111 (96%)
Carboplatin	5 (4%)
No. of concurrent chemotherapy cycles	
1	7 (6%)
2	103 (89%)
3	6 (5%)
Pre-treatment oral intake	
NBM	0
Sips	0
Pureed	0
Soft	12 (10%)
Normal	100 (86%)
Not recorded	4 (3%)
Median pre-treatment weight/kg (range)	84.0 (4-132)
Median BMI (range)	28.1 (19.6-39.5)
Median end of treatment weight/kg (range)	74.1 (46.9-128)
Median % weight change (range)	-8.6 (+1.9 to -19.8)
End of treatment oral intake	
NBM	36 (31%)
Sips	45 (39%)
Pureed	8 (7%)
Soft	21 (18%)
Normal	2 (2%)
Not recorded	4 (3%)
Enteral feed	
No	31 (27%)
Yes	85 (73%)
Median duration of enteral feeding post-CRT/months	2.79 (0.1-72.3)

Supplementary Table 2: Patient, tumour and treatment details in patients offers a choice of prophylactic gastrostomy or NG tube as required (n=116)

	Overall (n=116)	Prophylactic gastrostomy (n=69)	NG as required (n=47)	p- value
Age (Median, range)	57.2 (30.4-71.7)	57.5 (42.9-70.6)	57.1 (30.4-71.7)	0.714
Gender				
Male	91 (78%)	52 (75%)	39 (83%)	0.230
Female	25 (22%)	17 (25%)	8 (17%)	
Smoking				
Never	39 (34%)	26 (38%)	13 (28%)	0.423
Ex	50 (43%)	27 (39%)	23 (49%)	
Current	23 (20%)	15 (22%)	8 (17%)	
Not recorded	4 (3%)	1 (1%)	3 (6%)	
Alcohol				
None	24 (21%)	16 (23%)	8 (17%)	0.031
Moderate	71 (61%)	37 (54%)	34 (72%)	
Heavy	19 (16%)	16 (23%)	3 (6%)	
Not recorded	2 (2%)	0 (0%)	2 (4%)	
Oropharynx subsite				
Tonsil	69 (59%)	40 (58%)	29 (62%)	0.311
BOT	43 (37%)	27 (39%)	16 (34%)	
Other	4 (3%)	2 (3%)	2(4%)	
T stage				
T1	16 (14%)	6 (9%)	10 (21%)	0.489
T2	62 (53%)	34 (49%)	28 (60%)	
T3	14 (12%)	10 (14%)	4 (9%)	
T4	24 (21%)	19 (28%)	5 (11%)	
Nodal stage				
N0	12 (10%)	10 (14%)	2 (4%)	0.187
N1	19 (16%)	7 (10%)	12 (26%)	
N2a	12 (10%)	9 (13%)	3 (6%)	
N2b	51 (44%)	29 (42%)	22 (47%)	
N2c	20 (17%)	12 (17%)	8 (17%)	
N3	2 (17%)	2 (3%)	0 (0%)	
Histological Grade				
1/2	36 (31%)	22 (32%)	14 (30%)	0.481
3	65 (56%)	35 (51%)	30 (64%)	
Not graded	15 (13%)	12 (17%)	3 (6%)	
Induction chemotherapy				
None	105 (91%)	60 (87%)	45 (96%)	0.126
TPF	9 (8%)	8 (12%)	1 (2%)	
PF	2 (2%)	1 (1%)	1 (2%)	
RT dose				

65Gy in 30 fractions	2 (2%)	1 (1%)	1 (2%)	0.782
70Gy in 35 fractions	114 (98%)	68 (99%)	46 (98%)	
Concurrent chemotherapy				
Cisplatin	111 (96%)	66 (96%)	45 (96%)	0.981
Carboplatin	5 (4%)	3 (4%)	2 (4%)	
No. of concurrent chemotherapy cycles				
1	7 (6%)	3 (4%)	4 (9%)	0.522
2	103 (89%)	63 (91%)	40 (85%)	
3	6 (5%)	3 (4%)	3 (6%)	
Pre-treatment oral intake				
NBM	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0.344
Sips	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	
Pureed	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	
Soft	12 (10%)	9 (13%)	3 (6%)	
Normal	100 (86%)	60 (87%)	40 (85%)	
Not recorded	4 (3%)	0 (0%)	4 (8%)	
Median pre-treatment weight/kg (range)	84.0 (4-132)	83.5 (49-132)	86 (55-122)	0.720
Median BMI (range)	28.1 (19.6-39.5)	28.1 (19.6-39.5)	28.7 (20.0-36.9)	0.691
Median end of treatment weight/kg (range)	74.1 (46.9-128)	74 (46.9-128)	75.9 (53-107.7)	0.574
Median % weight change (range)	-8.6 (+1.9 to -19.8)	-7.0 (+1.9 to -19.8)	-9.4 (-1.8 to -19.3)	0.170
End of treatment oral intake				
NBM	36 (31%)	22 (32%)	14 (30%)	0.139
Sips	45 (39%)	32 (46%)	13 (28%)	
Pureed	8 (7%)	4 (6%)	4 (9%)	
Soft	21 (18%)	8 (12%)	13 (28%)	
Normal	2 (2%)	1 (1%)	1 (2%)	
Not recorded	4 (3%)	2 (3%)	2 (4%)	
Enteral feed				
No	31 (27%)	7 (10%)	20 (43%)	<0.001
Yes	85 (73%)	62 (90%)	27 (57%)	
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

Supplementary Table 3: Patients offered a choice of prophylactic gastrostomy or NG tube as required: MDADI scores according to intended enteral feeding route (n=116)

	Overall (n=116)	Prophylactic gastrostomy (n=69)	NG as required (n=47)	p-value (prophylactic gastrostomy v. NG as required)
Composite: Median (IQR)	67.4 (53.6-80.8)	65.8 (52.9-79.7)	67.9 (57.9-82.1)	0.42
Global: Median (IQR)	80.0 (40-80)	80 (40-80)	80 (40-80)	0.42
Emotional: Median (IQR)	70.0 (57.5-83.3)	68.3 (57.5-80)	76.7 (60-90)	0.15
Functional: Median (IQR)	72.0 (56.0-87.0)	68.0 (56-80)	74 (61-88)	0.25
Physical: Median (IQR)	60.0 (52.5-75.0)	61.3 (52.5-74.4)	60 (52.5-74.3)	0.94

*IQR=interquartile range

