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Table 1: Patient demographic and disease characteristics

Characteristics	Total cohort (Column %) n=402	RP lymph node positive (column %) n=40	RP lymph node negative (column %) n=362	p value
Age				
Median (range)	57 (24-84)	56 (37-73)	57 (24-84)	0.297
Gender				
Male	310 (77.1)	33 (82.5)	277 (76.5)	0.393
Female	92 (22.9)	7 (17.5)	85 (23.5)	
Smoking				
Never	114 (28.4)	11 (27.5)	103 (28.5)	0.868
Ex-smoker	137 (34.1)	13 (32.5)	124 (34.3)	
Smoker	133 (33.1)	15 (37.5)	118 (32.6)	
Unknown	18 (4.5)	1 (2.5)	17 (4.7)	
p16				
Positive	192 (47.8)	21 (52.5)	171 (47.2)	0.266
Negative	34 (8.5)	6 (15.0)	28 (7.7)	
Unknown	176 (43.8)	13 (32.5)	163 (45.0)	
Tumour subsite				
Tonsil	241 (60.0)	22 (55.0)	219 (60.5)	0.002*
Base of Tongue	135 (33.6)	12 (30.0)	123 (34.0)	
Vallecula	9 (2.2)	0 (0)	9 (2.5)	
Post pharyngeal wall	5 (1.2)	1 (2.5)	4 (11.0)	
Soft palate	12 (3.0)	5 (12.5)	7 (1.9)	
T classification				
T1	85 (21.1)	7 (17.5)	78 (21.5)	0.194
T2	168 (41.8)	12 (30.0)	156 (43.1)	
T3	76 (18.9)	10 (25.0)	66 (18.2)	
T4	73 (18.2)	11 (27.5)	62 (17.1)	
N classification (AJCC 7th ed.)				
N0	41 (10.2)	1 (5.0)	40 (11.0)	0.005
N1	45 (11.2)	2 (2.5)	43 (11.9)	
N2a	30 (7.5)	0 (0)	30 (8.3)	
N2b	199 (57.0)	20 (50.0)	179 (49.4)	
N2c	74 (18.4)	15 (37.5)	59 (16.3)	
N3	13 (3.2)	2 (5.0)	11 (3.0)	
Stage (AJCC 7th ed.)				
I	1 (0.2)	0 (0)	1 (0.3)	0.207
2	19 (4.7)	2 (5.0)	17 (4.7)	
3	47 (11.7)	0 (0)	47 (13.0)	
4	335 (83.3)	38 (95.0)	297 (82.0)	
Histological grade				
Well	3 (0.8)	0 (0)	3 (0.8)	0.061
Moderate	74 (18.4)	12 (30.0)	62 (17.1)	
Poor	297 (73.9)	25 (62.5)	272 (75.1)	
Not graded	28 (6.9)	3 (7.5)	25 (6.9)	
Involved ipsilateral LN levels				
I	18 (4.5)	3 (7.5)	15 (4.3)	0.330
II	346 (86.1)	38 (95.0)	308 (85.1)	0.086
III	174 (43.3)	27 (67.5)	147 (40.6)	0.001
IVa	55 (13.7)	10 (25.0)	45 (12.4)	0.028
Va/b	26 (6.5)	4 (10.0)	22 (6.1)	0.338

Involvement of contralateral neck nodes	79 (19.7)	16 (40.0)	63 (17.4)	<0.001
Total number involved lymph nodes				
0	41 (10.2)	1 (2.5)	40 (11.0)	<0.001
1	116 (28.9)	3 (7.5)	113 (28.1)	
2	103 (25.6)	9 (22.5)	94 (23.4)	
3+	142 (35.3)	27 (67.5)	115 (28.6)	
Largest lymph node diameter				
No abnormal LN				
<2cm	41 (10.2)	1 (2.5)	40 (11.0)	0.052
2 to <3cm	94 (23.4)	4 (10.0)	90 (24.9)	
3+ cm	118 (29.4)	17 (42.5)	101 (25.1)	
	149 (37.1)	18 (45.0)	131 (32.6)	

*Analysis comparing 3 groups (1. tonsil, 2. base of tongue and vallecula, 3. soft palate and posterior pharyngeal wall)

Significant p values highlighted in bold.