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Diagnostic value of conventional fine needle aspiration cytology in cervical lymphadenopathy

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Introduction: Lymphadenopathy is a common clinical presentation in outpatient clinics. Fine needle aspiration cytology (FNAC) of the enlarged lymph node is an easy and simple tool for clinical management. This is because it is fast and minimally invasive with minimal complications.

Aim: To evaluate the reliability and validity of conventional FNAC of cervical lymphadenopathy.

Methods: This prospective study was carried out on 50 patients with cervical lymphadenopathy. The cyto-pathological diagnoses obtained by FNAC were compared with the histopathological results of the ongoing excised nodes.

Results: 54 percent of our cases were females. 74 percent of our cases were less than 40 years. The cytological diagnoses were benign in 29 cases (58%) and malignant (diagnostic or suspicious for malignancy) in 21 cases (42%). The sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value, and negative predictive value were 84%, 100%, 100%, and 86.2%, respectively. The overall diagnostic accuracy was 92% (46/50), while the overall discordance rate was 8% (4/50).

Conclusions: The overall diagnostic accuracy of FNAC of cervical lymph nodes was 92%. The sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value, and negative predictive value were 82.6%, 100%, 100%, and 87.1%, respectively. FNAC is a reliable diagnostic tool for the diagnosis of cervical lymphadenopathy.

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