

Sarcomas Of The Head And Neck At Kenyatta National Hospital

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Abstract:

OBJECTIVE: To document the pattern of occurrence of all primary neural tumours arising in the neck and craniofacial region over the period 1982 to 1991. **DESIGN:** A retrospective study. **SETTING:** Cancer Registry, Nairobi, Kenya. **RESULTS:** Out of the 289 cases who were identified to have had whole body neural tumours, 225 (77.8%) had the lesions distributed in the neck and craniofacial area. While 80% of the neoplasms located in this region were retinoblastomas (mainly occurring in the age group 0 to 4 years), other lesion types occurred in small numbers thus: neurofibromas comprised 12.4%, Schwannomas four per cent, neuroblastomas and neuromas each 0.4%; and extracranial gliomas 2.7%. Overall, the male to female ratio was 1:1 and the site distribution revealed that over 90% of the lesions afflicted the upper face. **CONCLUSION:** Neural tumours of the neck and craniofacial region appear generally rare in this population as has been shown elsewhere.