

INFECTIONS AND THEIR OUTCOMES IN PATIENTS WITH ADVANCED MALIGNANCY - AN EXPERIENCE FROM A PALLIATIVE MEDICINE UNIT IN PAKISTAN

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OBJECTIVE

Infectious diseases significantly affect palliative care patients by worsening comorbidities, increasing symptom burden, prolonging hospital stays, and raising mortality risk. This study examines how infectious etiologies influence clinical outcomes and mortality among hospitalized palliative care patients and is done to determine the frequency of advanced cancer patients admitted with infectious etiology and outcomes of infections in these patients.

METHODS

This retrospective observational study evaluated adults with advanced malignancy admitted to palliative care, using electronic medical records to analyze demographics, infectious episodes, and mortality, and applied statistical tests (chi-square tests) to assess the association between infection and mortality.

RESULTS

Overall, 59.1% of patients were discharged, while 40.9% died during hospitalization. System involved was significantly associated with admission outcome ($p = 0.013$), with respiratory infections accounting for the highest proportion of deaths (62.9%). Among discharged patients ($n = 140$), the 30-day mortality rate was 46.4%.

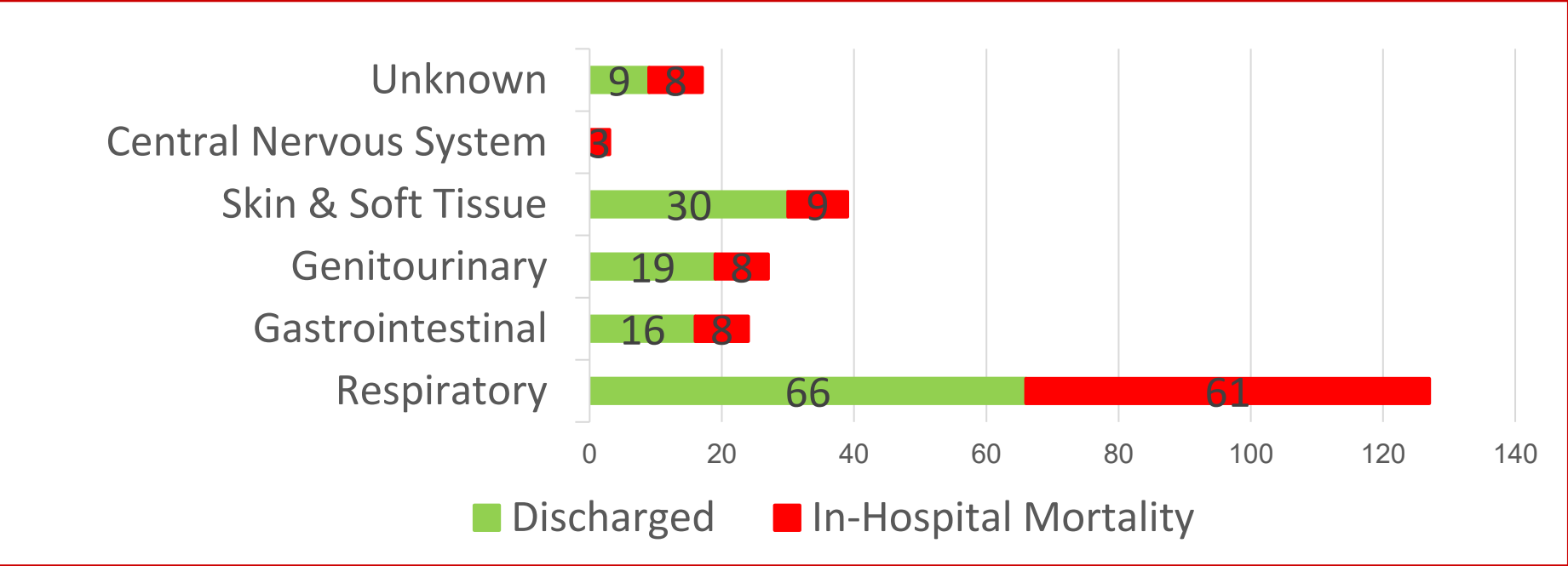
CONCLUSION

Respiratory infections were the most common source and were significantly associated with in-hospital mortality. These findings highlight the importance of early identification and aggressive management of respiratory infections to improve hospital outcomes and reduce mortality.

TABLE 1. COMPARISON OF DEMOGRAPHICS, SYSTEM INVOLVED, ADMISSION OUTCOME AND 30-DAY MORTALITY

Variable	Category	Total no. of patients	Discharged	In-Hospital Mortality	Mortality within 30-Days Post Discharge	Survived to 30-Days Post Discharge
Age (years)	< 16 years	3	3	0	2	1
	17 – 40 years	57	34	23	13	21
	41 – 60 years	94	56	38	26	30
	> 60 years	83	47	36	24	23
Gender	Male	131	78	53	37	41
	Female	106	62	44	28	34
Systems Involved	Respiratory	127	66	61	30	36
	Gastrointestinal	24	16	8	9	7
	Genitourinary	27	19	8	7	12
	Skin & Soft Tissue	39	30	9	16	14
	Central Nervous System	3	0	3	--	--
	Unknown	17	9	8	3	6

SYSTEMS CONTRIBUTING TO IN-HOSPITAL MORTALITY



SYSTEMS CONTRIBUTING TO 30-DAY POST DISCHARGE MORTALITY

