Abstract

Objectives: To determine if p53 expression in patients with infiltrative bladder cancer is a prognostic factor on clinical staging and cancer specific survival. Methods: Immunohistochemical analysis of p53 in 34 patients (33 males and 1 female) undergoing radical cystectomy for infiltrative bladder cancer, with a mean follow-up of 16 months. Results: p53 overexpression was detected in 18 patients (64%). In the p53 positive group two patients were stage T1G3, 18 patients T2, 1 patient T3, and 2 patients T4. In the negative group a better correspondence between TUR and cystectomy stage was found, with stage worsening only in 3 patients. On follow-up, p53 positive patients showed worse outcomes due to their worse stages, although no statistical differences were found (p = 0.24). In the group of patients following a bladder sparing protocol (n= 6), p53 negative patients had complete remission of the disease. Conclusions: We see significant differences on understaging/more aggressive local outcome in p53 positive patients, with no greater mortality in this group. P53 expression does not contraindicate the inclusion of a patient in a bladder sparing protocol, although larger studies would be necessary to confirm these results.

Keywords