**LONG TERM SURVIVAL ANALYSIS OF CARDIAC PARAGANGLIOMAS**

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Background: Cardiac paragangliomas are rare cardiac tumors with unknown long-term outcome. The goal of this study was to perform survival analysis of reported cases. Furthermore, we evaluated presence of risk factors that could lead to poor long term prognosis.

Methods: We found 82 case reports of cardiac and/or pericardial paragangliomas in the literature with outcome data. The patients were divided into two groups based on the outcome of surgical management. Univariate analysis was performed using SPSS software (Chicago, IL version 18), and the statistical significance was defined as a p-value < 0.05.

Results: The comparison of available demographic, clinical and imaging parameters between the deceased and the surviving patients revealed that only the intra-cardiac location (p-value = 0.021) and the development of metastases (p-value < 0.001) were independently associated with increased surgical and long-term mortality, respectively. The size of a paraganglioma, its functional status or invasion into the surrounding structures does not appear to affect survival in these patients. The Kaplan-Meier survival curve showed excellent long-term prognosis for patients with a complete surgical removal of the neoplasm.

Conclusion: Based on our study, long-term prognosis of cardiac paragalglimas are favorable if it can be completely resected without metastasis.