



KASTURBA HOSPITAL

MANIPAL

(An associate Hospital of MAHE, Manipal)

TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

This is to certify that Dr Ankita Mehta is working as an Assistant Professor in Department of Radiation Oncology, Kasturba Medical College, Manipal since 12th August 2023. She wants to apply for research grant sponsored by Sunpharma Science foundation. She will be working on a prospective clinical trial in a subset of post operative head and neck cancer patients who have histopathologically proven presence of extranodal extension (ENE). ENE is considered as an independent adverse prognostic factor, and is an important determinant of loco-regional failure and also overall survival. It is an indication for chemoradiation in adjuvant settings. The benefit of addition of chemotherapy to radiation is well established in randomized settings but the optimal dose schedule of radiation is not clearly known.

Radiation dose escalation up to 66 Gy in this subgroup is recommended but a strong consensus is lacking and there is no strong evidence to support its benefit over the standard dose of 60 Gy in post operative head and neck cancer patients. In this trial, patients will be randomized to two arms with varying dose schedules, patients in standard arm will receive radiation dose of 66 Gy and in the experimental arm will receive radiation dose of 60 Gy. The end points will be loco-regional control, acute and late morbidity.

Even in settings of contemporary techniques, around 40-50 % of patients during course of chemoradiation develop moderate to severe side effects such as skin and mucosal reactions, difficulty in swallowing that can affect the nutritional status, compliance to treatment. Late side effects include neck fibrosis, altered taste sensation, hypothyroidism, lymphedema, dryness of mouth, swallowing difficulty, and fatigue.

A financial source of funding would be required for management of acute and late chemoradiation induced toxicities, providing support for admission and enrollment of clinical trial coordinator. This fellowship can be a great support for enrolling patients in this clinical trial. I strongly recommend her for this fellowship programme and extend my full support for the conduct of this clinical trial.

Dr Shirley L Salins

MBBS, MD, DNB FRCA

Associate Professor and In Charge Head

DR. SHIRLEY LEWIS SALINS, MD, DNB, FRCA (Clin. Onco)

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