

Supplementary material

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Supplementary Table. Detailed causes and circumstances of death for Cohorts A and B.

Patient	Cause of death	Details	Interval from last RT day, mo
Cohort A			
1	NPC	Distant metastatic progression.	7.3
2	Non-NPC (stroke)	Haemorrhagic stroke during treatment. Prior history of stroke. No evidence of NPC- or treatment-related contribution.	0.5
3	Non-NPC (second cancer)	Died of hepatocellular carcinoma.	28.9
4	Non-NPC (myocardial infarction)	Ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm; died of myocardial infarction 2 months later.	16.1
5	Non-NPC (second cancer)	Died of pancreatic cancer.	44.3
6	NPC	Distant metastatic progression.	38.1
7	NPC	Distant metastatic progression.	24.6
8	NPC	Distant metastatic progression.	15.8
9	Non-NPC (stroke)	Stroke in the absence of NPC progression or treatment-related complications.	36.9
10	Non-NPC (chest infection)	Died of chest infection. No documented dysphagia prior to admission.	71.1
11	Non-NPC (chest infection)	Chest infection after subdural haemorrhage. No documented dysphagia or treatment-related dysphagia.	72.8
12	Non-NPC (chest infection)	Aspiration pneumonia. No documented treatment-related dysphagia.	12.1
13	Unknown	Found in cardiac arrest at home. No evidence of disease recurrence or treatment-related	35.3

		complications.	
14	Non-NPC (chest infection)	Chest infection. No documented treatment-related dysphagia.	40
15	Non-NPC (chest infection)	Chest infection in the setting of end-stage renal failure. No recurrence or RT-related complications.	19.9
16	Unknown	Found in cardiac arrest at home. No documented recurrence or significant treatment-related complication.	73.5
17	Non-NPC (chest infection)	Chest infection in the setting of underlying cognitive impairment.	99.4
18	NPC	Distant metastatic progression.	14.5
19	Treatment	Chest infection during RT (sixth fraction). Mild dysphagia and Grade 1 mucositis.	0.3

Cohort B

Patient	Cause of death	Details
1	Other illness (chest infection)	Aspiration pneumonia. No documented dysphagia.
2	NPC	Distant metastatic progression.
3	NPC	Aspiration pneumonia secondary to documented dysphagia from progressive local disease.
4	NPC	Aspiration pneumonia. Severe dysphagia due to NPC.
5	Unknown	Found in cardiac arrest at home. No documented significant NPC-related symptoms.
6	Unknown	Unclear circumstances of death. No documented significant NPC-related symptoms.
7	Other illness (chest infection)	Aspiration pneumonia. Known dysphagia prior to cancer diagnosis.
8	NPC	Aspiration pneumonia. Documented dysphagia with progressive primary tumour.

9	NPC	Sepsis due to infected tumour, with possible chest infection. Dysphagia attributed to NPC.
10	NPC	Death due to poor oral intake and malnutrition. Documented significant local symptoms.
11	NPC	Aspiration pneumonia. Worsening dysphagia due to progressive NPC.
12	NPC	Died after epistaxis. Death presumably related to advanced tumour burden.
13	NPC	Sepsis with distant metastases and bulky progressive cervical lymphadenopathy.
14	Unknown	Found in cardiac arrest at home. No documented significant NPC-related symptoms.
15	NPC	Aspiration pneumonia. Documented dysphagia due to NPC.

Abbreviations: NPC = nasopharyngeal carcinoma; RT = radiotherapy.