A MATCHED COHORT ANALYSIS OF 136 PANCREATIC ANAPLASTIC CARCINOMAS AND 695 PANCREATIC ADENOCARCINOMAS: A 13-YEAR NORTH AMERICAN EXPERIENCE USING THE NATIONAL CANCER DATABASE.

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Background. Anaplastic pancreatic carcinoma (APC) is a rare and poorly characterized disease. We sought to compare the clinical characteristics and outcome of APC to pancreatic adenocarcinoma (PAC).

Method. The American National Cancer Database (NCDB) was queried for patients diagnosed with resected APC and PAC using diagnostic and surgical codes. APC cases were matched 1:5 with PAC's based on age, gender, race, pathologic tumor stage, margin status, use of adjuvant therapy and Charlson co-morbidity score.

Result. One-hundred and sixty-four and 48420 patients were diagnosed with APC and PAC between 1998-2011. Following 1:5 matching, 139 APC and 695 PAC were analyzed. Mean age at diagnosis was 65 years for both groups. The median tumor size was 50 mm (35–70) vs. 34 mm (25–65; p<0.001), the median number of nodes examined was 10 (5-17) vs. 11 (7–18; p<0.001), and the median number of positive nodes was 0 (0-3) vs. 1 (0-3; p=0.015) for APC and PAD. The median length of hospital stay was 8 days (6–12) vs. 10 days (7–14; p=0.008). Adjuvant chemotherapy and radiotherapy were administered in 40% and 27% of the cases in both groups. The median overall survival from diagnosis was 9.56 (3.22-26.71) vs 13.14 (6.41–25.46) months (p= 0.076).

Conclusion. While APC is thought to have a more aggressive biology, in our matched analysis, patients with resected APC have larger tumors, less frequent nodal involvement, and similar overall survival compared to PAC.