

# Thymoma a Clinicopathological Study in Iraqi Patients

Rana Zuheir Naji<sup>1</sup> FICPath, Faeza Aftan AlRawi<sup>2</sup> MSc, FICPath

---

## **Abstract**

**Background:** Thymoma is a rare tumor, it represent 0.09% of all tumors in Iraq still it's the most frequent anterosuperior mediastinal tumor.

**Aim of the study:** Study the clinicopathological features of thymoma in Iraqi patients.

**Materials and Methods:** A retrospective study on Fifty-one cases of thymoma, randomly selected from three specialized cardiothoracic centers in Baghdad for the period from Jan.1991 to Oct.2004. Paraffin blocks were collected, and 4 micrometers sections were stained with Hematoxyline & Eosin stain. Thymoma was classified according to the most recent WHO histopathological classification (1999). And staged according to Masaoka's staging system (1981), TNM staging system (1991) and GETT staging system (1991).

**Results:** The fifty one cases included 19 females (37.25%) and 32 males (62.75%) their

age ranged from 11-67 years with a mean of (39 +13.6) years. About half of the patients (54.9%) were found to have myasthenia gravis. WHO sub typing revealed that B2 was the most frequent subtype (35.3%). A significant correlation was found between WHO classification system & Masaoka's & TNM staging system, and with the sex of the patients.

**Conclusion:** MG was the only paraneoplastic syndrome diagnosed in this study. A significant correlation was found between WHO classification system & Masaoka's & TNM staging system, and with the sex of the patients.

**Key Words:** Thymoma, Myasthenia gravis, Mediastinal tumors.

IRAQI J MED SCI, 2008; VOL.6 (2):49-53

---

## **Introduction**

Thymoma is the neoplasm of thymic epithelial cells, independently of the presence and/or the number of lymphocytes<sup>(1,2)</sup>.

According to Iraqi cancer registry the frequency of thymoma in IRAQ is 23.5% of all mediastinal tumors, and 0.09% of all cancers in IRAQ<sup>(3)</sup> In USA the over all incidence of thymoma is 0.15/100,000 persons with slight female predominance. While in Europe the incidence of thymoma is 0.18/100,000 for male and 0.10/100,000 for females<sup>(4)</sup>.

The most widely used histopathological classification systems were Lattes- Bernatz (L-B) 1962 and Muller-Hermilink (M-H) 1985, at 1999 a system adapted by WHO committee which incorporates between L-B and M-H. The most widely used staging system of thymoma is the Masaoka's, it depends on encapsulation, degree of invasion and metastasis<sup>(5, 6)</sup>. Another staging system is adapted the TNM system 1991, in which Masaoka's system is incorporated with some modifications<sup>(7, 8)</sup>. A third staging system described by the French study group of thymoma called the GETT system based on level of surgical excision, it tends to down grade the Masaoka's staging system<sup>(9,10)</sup>. Prognosis of thymoma depends on several factors as stage of invasion (the single most important factor),

---

<sup>1</sup>Dept. Histopathology, Central Public Health Lab, <sup>2</sup> Dept. Pathology and Forensic Medicine, College of Medicine Al-Nahrain University.

Address Correspondences to: Prof. Faeza Aftan AlRawi

Email: [faizarawi@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:faizarawi@yahoo.co.uk).

Received: 29<sup>th</sup> October 2007, Accepted: 25<sup>th</sup> March 2008.