



European Society for Medical Oncology

ESMO CLINICAL VISIT UNIT REPORT

Host institute: department of radiation oncology, Tenon hospital, Paris.

October 02nd 2017- November 03, 2017.

Clinical visit unit fellowship: radiotherapy in Head and neck cancers

- **Fellow:** Dr Mohammed AFIF (department of radiotherapy, Regional institute of oncology of Tangier, Morocco).
- **Mentor:** Professor Florence Huguet. Professor of radiation oncology, Tenon hospital, Paris, France.

My name is Mohammed AFIF, I am a young radiation oncologist working now at the regional institute of oncology of Tangier, Morocco. Durant my last year of training at the national institute of oncology of Rabat, I had the chance to be accepted by the ESMO program, to make a visit to the radiotherapy department of Tenon hospital in Paris, France.

In my country Morocco, head and neck cancers (HNC), and especially nasopharyngeal carcinoma is one of the most commune cancers. Update my knowledge in management of NPC was one the main reasons to choose my fellowship in Tenon Hospital, supervised by Professor Florence Huguet, one of the head and neck cancers specialists in France and Europe.

The fellowship lasted finally five weeks from October 02nd to 03 November 2017, my coordinator was Pr F. Huguet. It was a short, but very interesting and constructive stay.

During my fellowship, I had a big opportunity to observe the work of a specialized and professional team working with the latest recommendations, and with modern technics of radiotherapy (modulated intensity radiotherapy by arc, stereotaxic RTH, and brachytherapy).

I have assisted to the weekly multidisciplinary specialized tumors board, with oncologists, head and neck surgeons, radiologists, nuclear medicine and pathologists, and we have discussed difficult and interesting clinical cases.

In my visit program, Professor Huguet had scheduled visits to the operating room to attend surgical interventions, I attended twice to a laryngeal cancer surgery, it was an opportunity to

know the principles of surgery in head and neck cancers, and manage postoperative outcomes of these patients.

Every Monday, I used to attend with Dr. Marc Tassart, a radiologist at the hospital Tenon, to the interpretation of MRI and CT, it was very valuable for me, to read MRI in nasopharyngeal carcinoma in case radiologist was not available. I had the opportunity to know the latest developments in imaging in head and neck cancers.

Together with Professor, in collaboration with others radiation oncologists, i participated in the various stages of management of patients with head and neck cancers, from the announcement of the diagnosis, to the end of the treatment, including clinical examinations (nasal and laryngeal endoscopy), work-up (CT-scan, MRI, PET-CT), simulation, contouring of target volumes, validation of dosimetry with physicists, and monitoring of patients during radiotherapy and chemotherapy. We discussed cases of HNC, but also other cases including breast and digestive cancers.

Clinical trials were an important part of my training and the oncology department participate in many trials including immunotherapy in HNC. I was able during my stay to follow some cases included in clinical trials, and understand how to take care of them.

Finally, education was a part of daily program I have attended, I participated actively in various training sessions for interns and residents, especially the morning daily meetings, I also had the opportunity to attend a course on stereotactic radiotherapy, presented by Professor Teboul and Professor Hugué, for the benefit of oncologists coming from different countries.

In conclusion, the clinical visit to the radiotherapy department of Tenon Hospital was a great and interesting experience to improve my skills in management of HNC, but also other oncology specialties, which I have not seen in my home institution. The knowledge I learned with Professor Hugué and her team will help me and my colleagues to improve the quality of the treatment of patients in my country.

I want to thank Professor Hugué and whole Tenon team for their welcome and support. I also want to thank the ESMO for your support. ESMO fellowship program is a great opportunity for all young oncologist, and I recommend all my colleagues to apply to their different programs.

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