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INTRODUCTION

Larynx has important functions - such as breathing, voice and swallowing – and, therefore, both the disease and its treatment can significantly affect the quality of life. The main goal of treatment in advanced head and neck cancer is to achieve good oncological results, preserving organ function and quality of life as much as possible. (Alvaro Sanabria et al 2016).

Radiochemotherapy is a therapeutic modality that aims not only at the oncological treatment, but it also aims the preservation of the organ. It is usually indicated in initial tumors to avoid surgical intervention and, at the other extreme, for unresectable tumors. Although the literature reports good oncological control in most cases, this is not always synonymous with the preservation of function. (Therese Karlsson et al 2016, Marcella Szuecs et al 2014, Matthew T. Greulich et al., 2015)

OBJECTIVE

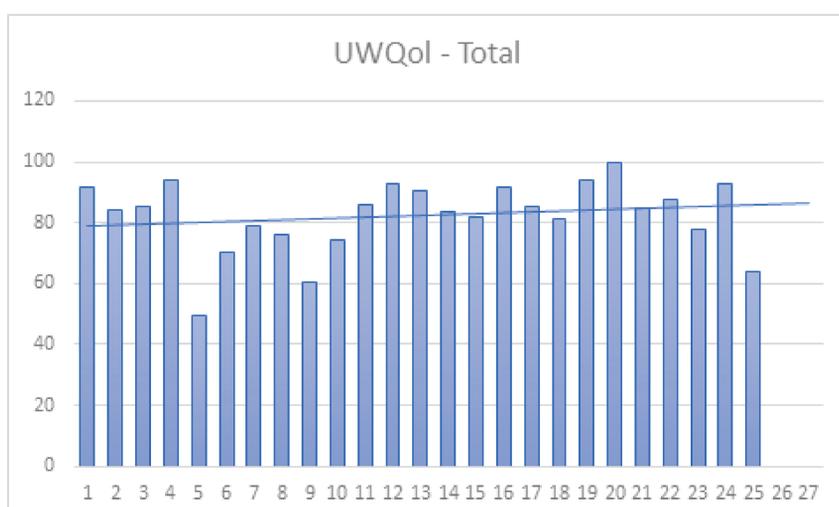
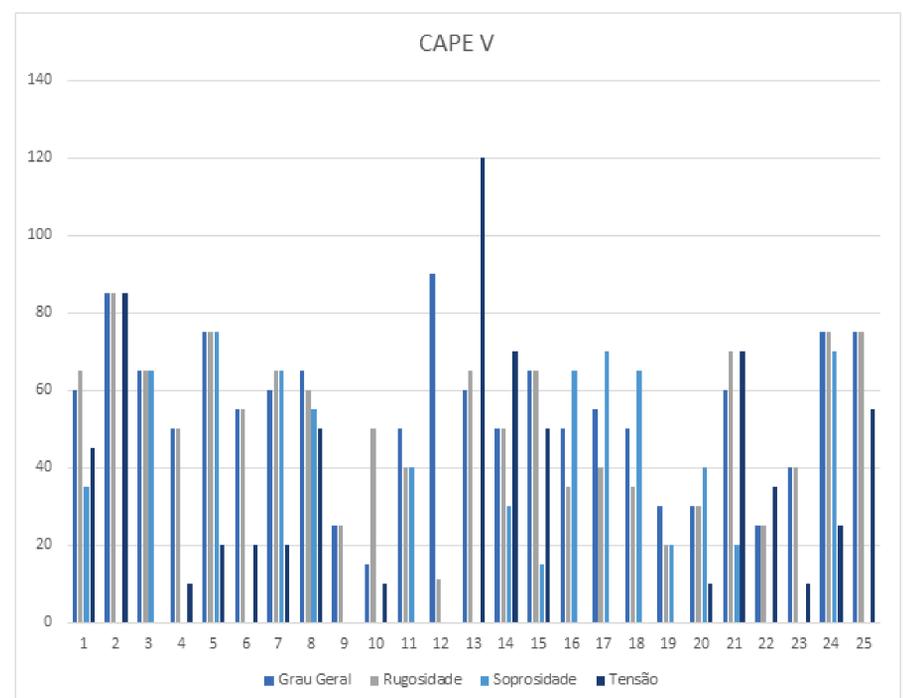
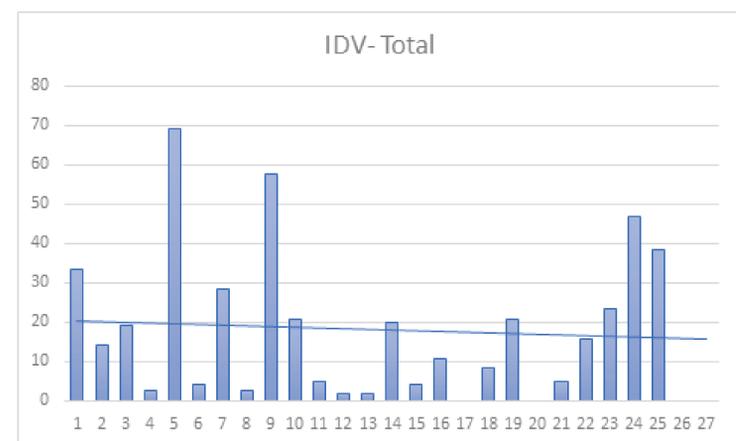
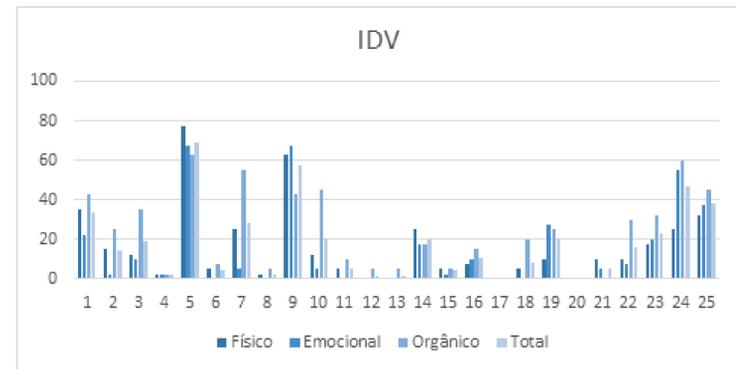
To evaluate the quality of life and voice of patients submitted to radiochemotherapy treatment.

METHODOLOGY

A cross-sectional study was performed in 25 patients exposed to radiation therapy alone or in association with chemotherapy from January 2017 to June 2017. For the evaluation, the *Índice de Desvantagem Vocal* (IDV), the Consensus Auditory-Perceptual Evaluation of Voice (CAPE-V) and the University of Washington Quality of Life Questionnaire (UW-QOL) protocols were used.

RESULTS

22 patients were males and 3 females, with mean age from 50 to 70 years. The IDV protocol showed dysphonic indices for all patients. The CAPE V showed, in the vocal analyzes, Presence of the striking roughness as the most present characteristic. About 44% of patients had an impact on quality of life when validated by UWQol.



CONCLUSION

Although radiotherapy causes changes in the vocal quality of the individual, it does not significantly compromise speech intelligibility, allowing patients to communicate without major difficulties. However, the treatment may have a negative impact on the quality of life in the functional and emotional aspects of these patients.