ABSTRACT

Background

Gastric cancer is the second most common cause of cancer related deaths worldwide. Major changes have been noted in the site of gastric cancer occurrence. The west has noted a paradigm shift with a steady increase in cancers of the proximal stomach and a decline in cancers of the distal stomach. Gastric cancer is well known to be associated with risk factors.

Objectives

This study was undertaken at Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai attached to Madurai Medical College to study the trends regarding prevalence, clinical features, association of risk factors, site of occurrence and histopathology.

Methods

All patients with histological confirmation of gastric carcinoma attending Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai from August 2013 to July 2014
were studied and details regarding the clinical presentation, sub site, pathological features and treatment were collected.

**Results**

50 patients with histological confirmation of carcinoma stomach were studied. Gastric carcinoma was seen in the older age group with male preponderance. The association of risk factors was studied. Majority of the patients presented in the advanced stage and distal tumours were the predominant subtype.

**Interpretation and Conclusion**

Gastric cancer is a common malignancy in this part and is commonly seen in the older age group predominantly in males. Patients usually present in the advanced stage, however with the increasing use of upper gastrointestinal endoscopy early gastric cancers are also being detected. The association of risk factors is well known and consistent and hints at the primordial prevention of the disease. Unlike in the west where there has been a shift in the site of the tumour,
distal tumours continue to be the major subtype in this study.

A multidisciplinary approach combining population screening with molecular biological techniques that are being developed is required to detect the cancer early and improve prognosis.