**Study design**

A randomized, open-label study, conducted at 37 centers across Europe. The study schema is shown in Figure 1.

**Assessments**

Patients were randomized to receive TPF or PF treatment, and outcomes were assessed at multiple time points: before treatment (baseline), immediately before the first cycle of chemotherapy, after each cycle, and at 3 and 6 months after completion of chemotherapy.

**Patient characteristics**

- **Patients with advanced head and neck cancer:**
  - **TPF:**
    - Median age: 62 years (range: 28-86)
    - Male gender: 87.8% (157 of 178)
    - Performance status (WHO 0-100) at baseline:
      - TPF: 76.0
      - PF: 72.0
  - **PF:**
    - Median age: 62 years (range: 28-86)
    - Male gender: 88.3% (157 of 178)
    - Performance status (WHO 0-100) at baseline:
      - TPF: 76.0
      - PF: 72.0

**Outcome measures**

- **Quality of life:**
  - **EORTC QLQ-C30** questionnaire
  - **EORTC QLQ-H&N35** module

**Endpoints**

- **Primary endpoint:**
  - Time to first deterioration of WHO performance status
- **Secondary endpoints:**
  - Time to worsening of two consecutive evaluations of the performance status
  - Pain, swallowing, speech, and coughing disturbance

**Statistical analysis**

- **Repeated measures, mixed effect, analysis of variance (ANOVA) models were used to analyze the evolution of QLQ-C30, QLQ-H&N35, and PSS-HN scores over time and treatment differences.**
- **Statistical significance was set at p < 0.05.**

**Results**

- **Quality of life:**
  - TPF-treated patients generally reported better scores than PF-treated patients.

**Conclusion**

- **The addition of docetaxel to cisplatin and 5-fluorouracil treatment in patients with locally advanced squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck (SCCHN):**
  - EORTC study 24971

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**Figure 1: Study Design**

**Figure 2: Effect on quality of life questionnaire C30**

**Figure 3: Time to first deterioration in WHO performance status**

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**References**

- Posner MR. The Oncologist 2005;10(Suppl. 3):11–19.