**Supplementary Table 1. Patients’ characteristics according to local and/or regional MET expression**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **MET expression primaries** |  | **MET expression LNs** |  |  | **MET expression primaries + LNs** |
| **Characteristics** | **All patients** | **Low** | **High** | **p-value\*** |  | **Low** | **High** | **p-value\*** |  | **Low** | **High** | **p-value\*** |
|   |   | N (%) | N (%) | N (%) |   |   | N (%) | N (%) |   |   | N (%) | N (%) |   |
| Age | ≤ 60 yrs | 43 (48.31) | 13 (30.23) | 30 (69.77) | 0.272 |   | 13 (30.23) | 30 (69.77) | 0.37 |   | 23 (53.49) | 20 (46.51) | 0.527 |
|   | > 60 yrs | 46 (51.69) | 20 (43.48) | 26 (56.52) |   |   | 19 (41.30) | 27 (58.70) |   |   | 21 (45.65) | 25 (54.35) |   |
| Gender | Female | 23 (25.84) | 7 (30.43) | 16 (69.57) | 0.617 |   | 7 (30.43) | 16 (69.57) | 0.6182 |   | 8 (34.78) | 15 (65.22) | 0.146 |
|   | Male | 66 (74.16) | 26 (39.39) | 40 (60.61) |   |   | 25 (37.88) | 41 (62.12) |   |   | 36 (54.55) | 30 (45.45) |   |
| T-stage | T1-2 | 47 (52.81) | 14 (29.79) | 33 (70.21) | 0.187 |   | 16 (34.04) | 31 (65.96) | 0.825 |   | 21 (44.68) | 26 (55.32) | 0.399 |
|   | T3-4 | 42 (47.19) | 19 (45.24) | 23 (54.76) |   |   | 16 (38.10) | 26 (61.90) |   |   | 23 (54.76) | 19 (45.24) |   |
| N-stage | N1 | 13 (14.61) | 4 (30.77) | 9 (69.23) | 0.760 |   | 4 (30.77) | 9 (69.23) | 0.763 |   | 6 (46.15) | 7 (53.85) | 1.000 |
|   | N2-3 | 76 (85.39) | 29 (38.16) | 47 (61.84) |   |   | 28 (36.84) | 48 (63.16) |   |   | 38 (50.00) | 38 (50.00) |   |
| M-stage | M0 | 75 (84.27) | 28 (37.33) | 47 (62.67) | 1.000 |   | 26 (34.67) | 49 (65.33) | 0.559 |   | 37 (49.33) | 38 (50.67) | 1.000 |
|   | M1 | 14 (15.73) | 5 (35.71) | 9 (64.29) |   |   | 6 (42.86 | 8 (57.14) |   |   | 7 (50.00) | 7 (50.00) |   |
| Site | Oropharynx | 31 (34.83) | 10 (32.26) | 21 (67.74) | 0.646 |   | 13 (41.94) | 18 (58.06) | 0.4877 |   | 13 (41.94) | 18 (58.06) | 0.657 |
|   | Non-oropharynx | 58 (65.17) | 23 (39.66) | 35 (60.34) |   |   | 19 (32.76) | 39 (67.24) |   |   | 28 (48.28) | 30 (51.72) |   |
| Grading | Low | 13 (14.61) | 6 (46.15) | 7 (53.85) | 0.549 |   | 5 (38.46) | 8 (61.54) | 1.000 |   | 7 (53.85) | 6 (46.15) | 1.000 |
|   | Intermediate-high | 76 (36.84) | 28 (36.84) | 48 (63.16) |   |   | 28 (36.84) | 48 (63.16) |   |   | 38 (50.00) | 38 (50.00) |   |
| Syst. therapy | No | 17 (19.10) | 5 (29.41) | 12 (70.59) | 0.582 |   | 7 (41.18) | 10 (58.82) | 0.779 |   | 7 (41.18) | 10 (58.82) | 0.591 |
|   | Yes | 72 (80.90) | 28 (38.89) | 44 (61.11) |   |   | 25 (34.72) | 47 (65.28) |   |   | 37 (51.39) | 35 (48.61) |   |
| Surg. primary | No  | 36 (40.45) | 13 (36.11) | 23 (63.89) | 1.000 |   | 13 (36.11) | 23 (63.89) | 1.000 |   | 17 (47.22) | 19 (52.78) | 0.830 |
|   | Yes | 53 (59.55) | 20 (37.74) | 33 (62.26) |   |   | 19 (35.85) | 34 (64.15) |   |   | 27 (50.94) | 26 (49.06) |   |
| ECE | No | 28 (31.46) | 12 (42.86) | 16 (57.14) | 0.484 |   | 11 (39.29) | 17 (60.71) | 0.812 |   | 17 (60.71) | 11 (39.29) | 0.175 |
|   | Yes | 61 (68.56) | 21 (34.43) | 40 (65.57) |   |   | 21 (34.43) | 40 (65.57) |   |   | 27 (44.29) | 34 (55.74) |   |
| Smoking status\*\* | NeverActive | 8 (11.94) | 1 (12.50)23 (38.98) | 7 (87.50)36 (61.02) | 0.141 |  | 4 (50.00)24 (40.68) | 4 (50.00)35 (59.32) | 0.711 |  | 5 (62.50)43 (72.88) | 3 (37.50)16 (27.12) | 0.406 |
|  |  | 59 (88.06) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Alcohol\*\* | Never/stoppedActive | 24 (38.10)39 (61.90) | 6 (25.00)17 (43.59) | 18 (75.00)22 (56.41) | 0.111 |  | 12 (50.00)16 (41.03) | 12 (50.00)23 (58.97) | 0.331 |  | 17 (70.83)28 (71.79) | 7 (29.17)11 (28.21) | 0.577 |
|  |
| HPV \*\* | Negative | 59 (76.62) | 28 (47.46) | 31 (52.54) | 0.519 |  | 23 (38.98) | 36 (61.02) | 0.287 |  | 46 (77.97) | 13 (22.03) | 0.608 |
|  | Positive | 18 (23.38) | 8 (44.44) | 10 (55.56) |  | 9 (50.00) | 9 (50.00) |  | 14 (77.78) | 4 (22.22) |

\*p-values calculated with Fisher’s exact test. Abbreviations: ECE – Extracapsular extension.

\*\*Information available only for part of the cohort.