**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\*\* | | | Never  Active | 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/stopped  Active | 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.