INTRODUCTION

Gastric cancer is the second most common cause of cancer-related death in the world after lung cancer. It is a difficult disease to cure in western countries, mainly because most patients present with advanced disease. 50% involve the pylorus, 25% the lesser curvature and 10% the cardia. 2-8% of gastric cancers are lymphomas.**(1)**

Gastric carcinoma is 2 times more common in men than in women. Moreover, carcinoma of the cardia of stomach is up to 7 times as common in men as in women.**(2)**

Gastric carcinoma has a peak incidence in those aged 50-70 years, however, approximately 5% of patients with gastric cancer are younger than 35 years, and 1% are younger than 30 years, younger patients have more aggressive lesions with a worse prognosis.**(3)**

Most patients present with advanced disease because they are often asymptomatic in the earlier stages. Common presenting features include epigastric pain, bleeding, early satiety, nausea, vomiting, dysphasia, anorexia, weight loss and upper GIT bleeding.**(4)**

Gastric cancer caused approximately 14,000 deaths in the United States. Most patients present late and the 5 years survival rate is approximately 20%.**(5)**

Prognosis is related to the stage of the disease at the time of the diagnosis and to the histologic grade of the carcinoma . Pathological staging is based on tumor stage, nodal stage and metastatic stage(TMN)**.(6)**

CT is used preoperatively primarily to determine the stage and extragastric speed of a gastric carcinoma. This information is vital in deciding between palliative surgery and curative radical surgery (i.e. identifying patient who would not benefit from the radical surgery). Additionally, CT is used to monitor a patient's response to treatment.**(7)**

Detection of gastric carcinoma is improved by using thin-section sequences and helical or multidetector-row CT. When thin collimation is used, near-isotropic imaging of the stomach is possible, allowing high-quality multiplaner reformation and 3-dimensional reconstruction of gastric images. An intravenous contrast-media is used, along with water or gas as negative intraluminal agent. Prone views improve visualization of tumors of the cardia and distal stomach. **(8)**