Squamous cell carcinomas (SCC) of the nasal cavity and the paranasal sinuses are a very rare and poorly understood tumor entity. To date, no consistent management strategy exists. The purpose of our study was to demonstrate our therapeutic strategy and to correlate clinicopathological features with clinical follow-up data. 45 patients with primarily resected SCC of the nasal cavity (n=35) and the paranasal sinuses (n=10) between 1994 and 2010 were reviewed retrospectively (mean follow-up period 2.6 years; range 0.3 to 14.9 years). Tumors of the nasal cavity were diagnosed at an early stage (97% T1 and T2) whereas tumors of the paranasinuses were found at an advanced stage (90% T3 and T4). Lymph node metastases were only found 2 patients. 13 patients (29%) had a local tumor progress, 2 patients showed lymph node metastases and 4 patients had distant metastases in follow up. The prognosis of tumors of the nasal cavity or the paranasal sinuses was bad (31% 5-year overall survival) especially by patients with a relapse. Reconstructive surgery was performed after 12 months, when early local relapse could be excluded. There was no positive correlation between clinicopathological features and survival data. The prognosis of tumors of the nasal cavity and paranasal sinuses depends mainly on the control of local tumor growth. Modern strategies of surgical
treatment in combination with radiotherapy need to be implemented in an effort to achieve continuous tumor-free survival.