Objectives: To evaluate the distribution and characteristics of malignant tumors of the eye and ocular adnexa at a tertiary eye hospital over a 6-year period.

Design: Retrospective descriptive case series

Methods: A retrospective review of medical records and pathological slides were performed in patients diagnosed with malignant tumors of the eye and ocular adnexa during 2006-2011. Data were collected and analyzed on the demographic features, location of the tumors, and pathologic findings.

Results: A total of 94 patient data were evaluated. The most common site of tumor origin was the eyelid (37.2%), followed by conjunctiva (25.5%), orbit (17.0%), lacrimal gland (14.9%), and intraocular location (4.3%). Basal cell carcinoma (60%) was the most common eyelid malignancy with the mean age of 73.2 years. The most frequent malignant tumor of conjunctiva was squamous cell neoplasia (58%). Patient average age was 59.8 years. MALT lymphoma was the most common malignancy of the lacrimal gland (71.4%). The mean age was 51.9 years. Retinoblastoma (75%) was the most common intraocular malignancy. The mean age of presentation was 16 months.

Conclusion: Eyelid was the most common site of malignancy in the eye and ocular adnexa. Comparing with our previous series in 1988-1999 and 2000-2005, the major histopathological diagnoses of the malignancy of the eye and ocular adnexa were similar, but the leading site of malignancy has changed. This alteration may be due to the different study period, the change of tumor incidence or the referral system.