



Where do we stand with lateral compartment lymphadenectomies?

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No disclosures

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• History surgical oncology – lymph nodes

- Lateral lymph node dissection in rectal cancer
- Radiotherapy
- MR imaging
- TNT



Regional lymph nodes

- Resect tumour with wide margins
- En-bloc with regional lymph node













Regional lymph nodes



"indicators, not governors of survival"



Fisher 2002 NFJM

NSABP 04: radical mastectomy vs mastectomy+RT (vs



Lateral nodes - Japanese

15-25%

33%

10-20%

expe

- Low rectal cancer:
- Low N+ rectal cancer:
- Low N2 rectal cancer:
- Root middle rectal artery, internal iliac > obtura
- Seldom in mesorectal N0
- 5 yr survival:

30-40%

Moriya, Mori, Hojo, Hida, Ueno... Steup et al. Eur J Cancer 2002; 38: 911-918. Takahashi et al. Sem Surg Oncol 2000; 19: 386-395





Minimal invasive nerve preserving LLND









Eastern view

- Involved lateral nodes are common in certain groups
- Can be controlled with surgery, prevention lateral recurrences
- When done right, it adds little morbidity
- Prognosis reasonable ≈ resectable metastatic dise

Western view

- Involved lateral nodes are uncommon
- Can be controlled with radiotherapy
- Surgery adds considerable morbidity
- Sign of metastatic disease very bad prognosis





TME vs TME + LLND JCOG0212 randomized trial

- Stage II/III distal rectal cancer
 - 701 patients
 - No LLN \ge 10mm
- Local recurrence 44 26
- Lateral recurrence 23
- No survival difference

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Fujita 2017 Ann Surg

Evidence: meta-analyses comparative studies



Difference: duration, blood loss, urinary and sexual

uvsiunction

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Panagiotis 2009 Lancet Oncol Ma 2020 Asian J Surg

Comparative data from before MRI-

- Dutch TME trial: 376 TME and 379 RT and TME
- Cohort NCCH Tokyo: 324 TME +/- LLND (59%, uni/bi lateral)

Kusters 2009 Ann Surg

- Stage II/III, lower border ≤ 7cm anal verge
- Loc recurrence: 12.1% 5.8% 6.9%
 - M+ synch: 30% 88% 62%
 - M+ all: 77% 88% 95%
- Lat recurrence: 2.7% 0.8% 2.2%

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Conclusion

- No role for 'routine' LLN dissection in large groups
 Not even in low N+ rectal cancer
 - Usually indication for neoadjuvant therapy



MRI – lateral nodes







MRI and lymph nodes

- Size short axis
- Malignant features
 - 5-7mm + MF: 8.2% LLR
 - 5-7mm MF: 2.1% LLR
- 0.80 0.70 0.50 7mm 0.40 6mm AUC=0.919 0.20 0.60 Cut-off value = 7.0 mm Indistinct Heterogeneous Round Cumulative Lateral Local Recurrenc 10.8% Time (months)

- Number
 - 1 vs more
- Location
 obt < int iliac



Are radiologists seeing lateral nodes?

- 1096 pts ≥cT3, ≤ 8cm ARJ, 80% neoadj therapy
- Original MRI report: nothing mentioned 51%
 - Presence mentioned 21%; 25% report on suspiciousness
- Expert review: overall 35% visible LLN, 13% ≥7
 - 41% of enlarged LLN were not mentioned
- Overall 10% LR and 2.3% LLR









LLN

R

Kim, Ann Surg Onc 2008

Size LLN – LLND: impact on lateral recurrence

- 1216 pt atera kadenaturation
- 80% neoadj RT





- 1096 pts ≥cT3, ≤ 8cm ARJ, 80% neoadj therapy
- Partial LLND/node picking: 4-jr LLR 19%







How big is the problem? Dutch cohort study

- 1096 pts ≥cT3, ≤ 8cm /
- 80% neoadj RT

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- 284 pts visible LLN
 - 103 high risk
 - 19 LLR → NNT 7
 - 184 low/intermed risk
 - 4 LRR \rightarrow NNT 46
 - 16/23 eventually M+



Van Geffen 2024 JNCCN

Lateral nodes still a problem after TNT?

- 57/324 (18%) visible tive analysis OPPA-data
- 30/57 (53%) disappeared
- LLN recurrence rare
 - LLN+ 3.5% LLN- 0.4%
 - all distant metastases
- Non LLN recurrences: 50-60% metastases
- 1 pt benefit from LLND?

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LaNoReC prospective registration study

- Outcome: oncological and QoL
- Emphasis on training quality





Conclusion

- Involved lateral nodes
 - are a problem in a small group of patients
 - can for large part be controlled with LLND
 - can be reasonably controlled with RT, with TNT even better
 - risk groups narrowly defined by MRI
- Lateral nodal recurrence
 - is worth preventing, may become futile in most patients after TNT
- Lateral lymph node dissection
 - should be minimally invasive, nerve sparing, performed by expert



Thank you



ESSO Hands on Course on Oncological Standards in Minimally Invasive Colorectal Surgery





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