

VOLUME 28 | ISSUE 1

JANUARY  
FEBRUARY  
MARCH

2016

ISSN 2241 - 9136

# Hellenic Urology

Quarterly Publication by the Hellenic Urological Association

## REVIEWS

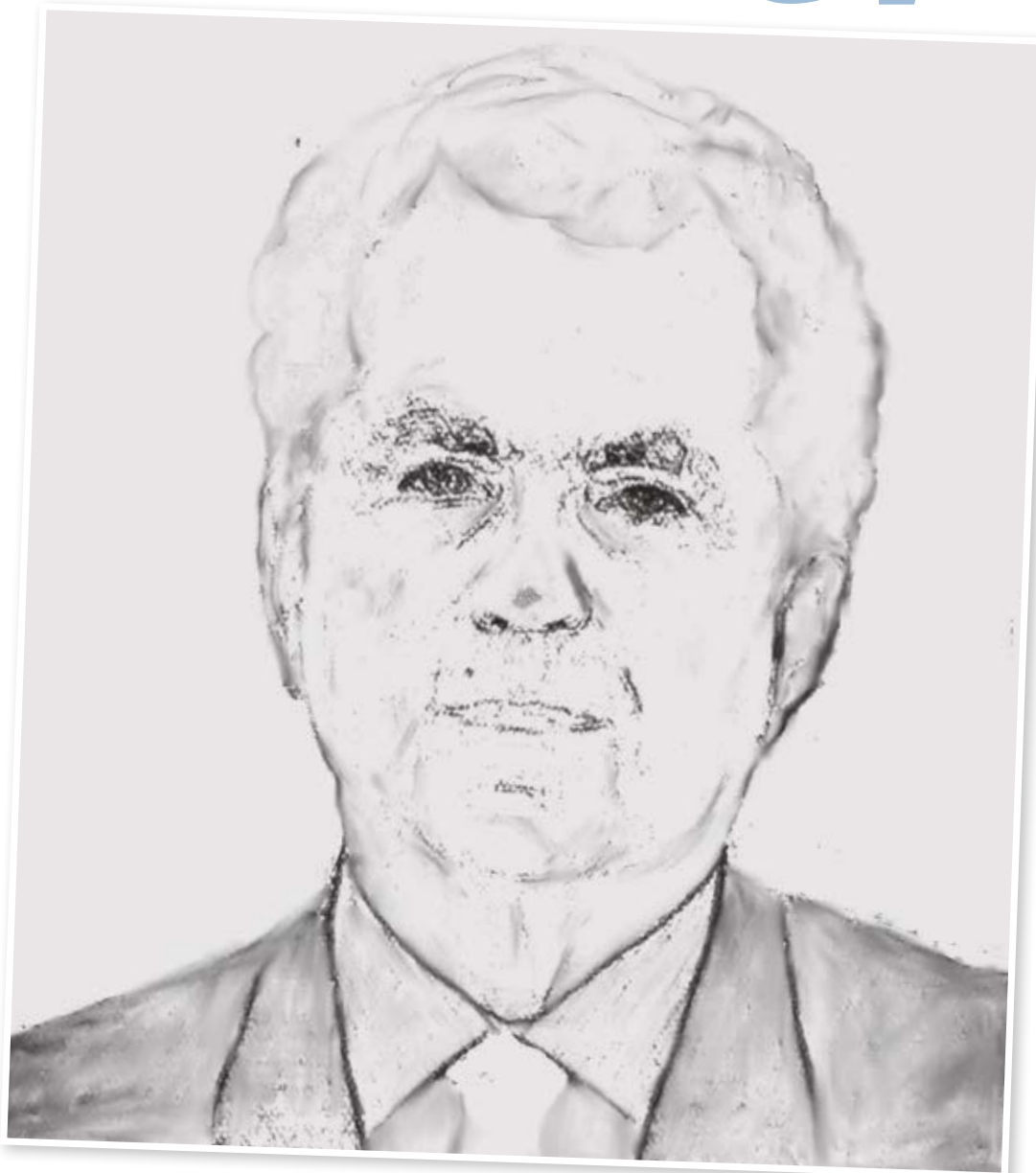
- The role of post-chemotherapeutic lymphadenectomy in the treatment of testicular germ cell tumors
- High risk prognostic factors after radical prostatectomy

## ORIGINAL ARTICLES

- PSA measurement in a self-selected population
- Management of anastomotic strictures after radical retropubic prostatectomy
- Evaluation of two novel urodynamic parameters in the diagnosis of female obstructive voiding

## CASE REPORTS

- Spontaneous abscess of the corpus cavernosum
- Combined minimal invasive methods for renal angiomyolipomas treatment



In memory of Prof. Konstantinos Dimopoulos



Official Journal  
of the Hellenic Urological Association



Official Journal  
of the Mediterranean & Gulf Urological Forum

ποιότητα  
ζωής



β

$$a^2 = \beta^2 + \gamma^2$$

α

γ

Toldes<sup>®</sup> PR

Tolterodine L-tartrate

"Θεμελιώδης αξία"

Για συνταγογραφικές πληροφορίες παρακαλώ επικοινωνήστε στα τ/φ της εταιρείας



RAFARM A.E.B.E. ΒΙΟΜΗΧΑΝΙΑ ΦΑΡΜΑΚΩΝ

Κορίνθου 12, 154 51, Ν. Ψυχικό, Αθήνα, Τηλ.: 210 6776550 - 1 • Fax: 210 6776552 • e-mail: info@rafarm.gr  
[www.rafarm.gr](http://www.rafarm.gr)

Άμεση δράση στη φλεγμονή του προστάτη



# Libeprosta®

Λιπιδостερολικό εκχύλισμα *Serenoa repens*

## Μοναδικός τρόπος δράσης:

Στη **φλεγμονή**<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>

Στη **βελτίωση** συμπτωμάτων<sup>6,7</sup> και τον **έλεγχο** της εξέλιξης της ΚΥΠ<sup>8</sup>

Στη **διασφάλιση** της ποιότητας ζωής<sup>8,9</sup>  
και το **σεβασμό** του ασθενούς

**Libeprosta®** 320 mg  
την ημέρα

**Libeprosta®:**  
το εξανικό εκχύλισμα  
*Serenoa repens* με τις  
περισσότερες κλινικές  
και φαρμακολογικές  
μελέτες.<sup>10</sup>

ΠΕΡΙΛΗΨΗ ΤΩΝ ΧΑΡΑΚΤΗΡΙΣΤΙΚΩΝ ΤΟΥ ΠΡΟΪΟΝΤΟΣ (S.P.C.) 1. ΕΜΠΟΡΙΚΗ ΟΝΟΜΑΣΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΦΑΡΜΑΚΕΥΤΙΚΟΥ ΠΡΟΪΟΝΤΟΣ LIBEPROSTA 80mg 2. ΠΟΙΟΤΙΚΗ & ΠΟΣΟΤΙΚΗ ΣΥΝΘΕΣΗ σε δραστικά συστατικά Κάθε επικαλυμμένο δισκίο (434,9 mg) περιέχει: *Serenoa repens* lipidosterolic extract (1) 80 mg (1) Έλαιο προερχόμενο από τους καρπούς της *Serenoa repens* (διεργασία με εζάνιο) 3. ΦΑΡΜΑΚΟΤΕΧΝΙΚΗ ΜΟΡΦΗ Επικαλυμμένα δισκία 4. ΚΛΙΝΙΚΑ ΣΤΟΙΧΕΙΑ 4.1. Θεραπευτικές ενδείξεις Για τη συμπτωματική αντιμετώπιση δυσουρικών ενοχλήσεων επί καλοήθους υπερπλασίας του προστάτη 4.2. Δοσολογία και τρόπος χορήγησης 4 δισκία την ημέρα: δύο φορές την ημέρα από δύο δισκία, την ώρα των γευμάτων, για 4-8 εβδομάδες 4.3. Αντενδείξεις Δεν υπάρχουν 4.4. Ιδιαίτερες προειδοποιήσεις και ιδιαίτερες προφυλάξεις κατά τη χρήση Το φάρμακο δεν μπορεί να υποκαταστήσει την προστατευτική και κατά τη διάρκεια της λήψης του ο ασθενής πρέπει να βρίσκεται υπό συνεχή ιατρικό έλεγχο. 4.5. Αλληλεπιδράσεις με άλλα φάρμακα ή άλλες μορφές αλληλεπίδρασης Δεν έχει παρατηρηθεί καμία αλληλεπίδραση με τις θεραπευτικές κλάσεις που συνήθως συγχωρηγούνται για αυτή την πάθηση (αντιβιοτικά, ουρικά αντισηπτικά, αντιφλεγμονώδη). 4.6. Κύηση και γαλουχία Δεν εφαρμόζεται 4.7. Επίδραση στην ικανότητα οδήγησης και χειρισμού μηχανημάτων Δεν υπάρχει 4.8. Ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες Η χρήση του φαρμάκου αρχικά μπορεί να προκαλέσει ναυτία. 4.9. Υπερδοσολογία Δεν έχουν ποτέ αναφερθεί περιστατικά. Μελέτες σε πειραματόζωα δεν έδειξαν ότι το ίδιοσκεύασμα παρουσιάζει τοξικότητα. 6. ΦΑΡΜΑΚΕΥΤΙΚΑ ΣΤΟΙΧΕΙΑ 6.1. Κατάλογος με έκδοχα ΕΚΔΟΧΑ Magnesium carbonate, silicon dioxide colloidal, kaolin, wheat starch, methylated casein, polyvidone excipient, magnesium stearate, purified water\* ΣΥΝΘΕΣΗ ΕΠΙΚΑΛΥΨΗΣ Hyromellose, hydroxypropylcellulose, polyethylene glycol 400, quinoline yellow lacquer E104, indigotine lacquer E132, titanium oxide, purified water\* \* Διαλύτης που εξαφανίζεται κατά τη διάρκεια της παρασκευής 6.2. Ασυμβατότητες Δεν αναφέρονται 6.3. Διάρκεια ζωής 36 μήνες για το έτοιμο προϊόν 6.4. Ιδιαίτερες προφυλάξεις κατά τη φύλαξη του προϊόντος Φυλάσσετε σε θερμοκρασία μικρότερη των 30°C. 6.5. Φύση και συστατικά του περιέκτη Κουτί που περιέχει 60 επικαλυμμένα δισκία σε 5 blisters των 12 δισκίων 6.6. Οδηγίες χρήσης/χειρισμού Δεν αναφέρονται 6.7. Κάτοχος της άδειας κυκλοφορίας Δικαιούχος σήματος PIERRE FABRE MEDICAMENT, FRANCE Υπεύθυνος αδείας κυκλοφορίας PIERRE FABRE FARMAKA A.E. Λεωφ. Μεσογείων 350 153 41 Αγ. Παρασκευή - Αττική Τηλ.: 210 7234582 7. ΑΡΙΘΜΟΣ ΑΔΕΙΑΣ ΚΥΚΛΟΦΟΡΙΑΣ 8554/6-2-2007 8. ΗΜΕΡΟΜΗΝΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΠΡΩΤΗΣ ΑΔΕΙΑΣ: 1-7-1986 ΑΝΑΝΕΩΣΗ ΤΗΣ ΑΔΕΙΑΣ ΚΥΚΛΟΦΟΡΙΑΣ: 6-2-2007

Χορηγείται με ιατρική συνταγή

Βιβλιογραφία 1. Latil A. et al. Anti-inflammatory properties of Permixon® lipidosterolic extract of *Serenoa repens*: in vitro and in vivo results. Eur Urol Suppl 2010; 9(2): 209. 2. Latil A. et al. Monocyte chemoattractant protein-1 (MCP-1/CCL2), a key chemokine involved in benign prostatic hyperplasia inflammation, is strongly reduced by Permixon®. Abstract EAU 2011 3. Rival et al. Permixon® inhibits cytokine-induced expression of VCAM-1, essential for mononuclear cell adhesion on human vascular endothelial cells. Eur Urol Suppl 2011; 10(2): 184. 4. Paubert-Braquet M. et al. Effect of the lipidosterolic extract of *Serenoa repens* (Permixon®) on the ionophore A23187-stimulated production of leukotriene B4 (LTB4) from human polymorphonuclear neutrophils. Prostaglandins, Leukotrienes and Essential Fatty Acids. 1997; 57(3):299-304 5. Ragab A. et al. Effects of Permixon® (Sereprostat® in Spain) on phospholipase A2 activity and on arachidonic acid metabolism in cultured prostatic cells. Acta Medica: New trends in BPH etio-pathogenesis. 1987;293-296. 6. Debruyne et al. Comparison of a phytotherapeutic agent (Permixon®) with an alpha-blocker (tamsulosin) in the treatment of benign prostatic hyperplasia: a 1-year randomized international study. European Urology 2002; 41(3): 497-507. 7. Boyle P. et al. Updated meta-analysis of clinical trials of *Serenoa repens* extract in the treatment of symptomatic benign prostatic hyperplasia. Int British Journal of Urology 2004;93:751-756. 8. Pytel YA. et al. Long-term clinical and biologic effects of the lipidosterolic extract of *Serenoa repens* in patients with symptomatic benign prostatic hyperplasia. Advances in therapy. 2002;19(6):297-306 9. Djavan B. and al. Progression delay in men with mild symptoms of bladder outlet obstruction: a comparative study of phytotherapy and watchful waiting. World J Urol. 2005; 23: 253-256. 10. Lowe C. The Role of *Serenoa repens* in the Clinical Management of Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms Due to Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia. Eur Urol, suppl 8 (2009) 894-897.

TABLETS 400mg

# NOROCIN®

norfloxacin

Η εξειδίκευση μετράει

Πριν τη συνταγογράφηση του NOROCIN, συμβουλευθείτε την περίληψη χαρακτηριστικών του προϊόντος



**BIANEX A.E. ΒΙΟΜΗΧΑΝΙΑ ΦΑΡΜΑΚΩΝ**

ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΟΜΙΛΟΥ ΓΙΑΝΝΑΚΟΠΟΥΛΟΥ

**Γραφεία Επιστημονικής Ενημέρωσης**

**ΑΘΗΝΑ:** Οδός Τατοΐου 146 71 Ν. Ερυθραία, Τηλ.: 210 8009111 **E-Mail:** mailbox@vianex.gr • **INTERNET:** <http://www.vianex.gr>

**ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ:** Ακάδημου 113, Κόμβος Μακρυγιάννη, Εύσσομος Θεσσαλονίκης, ΤΚ 56224, Τηλ: 2310 861683

**ΠΑΤΡΑ:** Μαιζώνος 131, Τηλ.: 2610 221397

VE16043NOR/1-3/2016



# ΠΕΡΙΛΗΨΗ ΧΑΡΑΚΤΗΡΙΣΤΙΚΩΝ ΤΟΥ ΠΡΟΪΟΝΤΟΣ

▼ Το φάρμακο αυτό τελεί υπό συμπληρωματική παρακολούθηση. Αυτό θα επιτρέψει τον ταχύ προσδιορισμό νέων πληροφοριών ασφαλείας. Ζητείται από τους επαγγελματίες του τομέα της υγείας να αναφέρουν οποιαδήποτε πιθανολογούμενες ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες. Βλ. παράγραφο Ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες για τον τρόπο αναφοράς ανεπιθύμητων ενεργειών.

**ΟΝΟΜΑΣΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΦΑΡΜΑΚΕΥΤΙΚΟΥ ΠΡΟΪΟΝΤΟΣ:** ZYTIΓA δισκία 250 mg. **ΠΟΙΟΤΙΚΗ ΚΑΙ ΠΟΣΟΤΙΚΗ ΣΥΝΘΕΣΗ:** Το κάθε δισκίο περιέχει 250 mg οξικής αμιπρατερόνης. **Εκδοχα με γνωστές δράσεις:** Το κάθε δισκίο περιέχει 189 mg λακτόζης και 6,8 mg νατρίου. **ΦΑΡΜΑΚΟΤΕΧΝΙΚΗ ΜΟΡΦΗ:** Δισκίο. Λευκά έως υπόλευκα δισκία σφαιρικού σχήματος με χαραγμένη την ένδειξη «A250» στη μία πλευρά. **ΚΛΙΝΙΚΕΣ ΠΛΗΡΟΦΟΡΙΕΣ: Θεραπευτικές ενδείξεις:** Το ZYTIΓA ενδείκνυται σε συνδυασμό με πρεδνιζόνη ή πρεδνιζολόνη για: • τη θεραπεία του μεταστατικού ανθεκτικού στον ενουσιχισμό καρκίνου του προστάτη σε ενήλικες άνδρες που είναι συμπτωματικοί ή ήπια συμπτωματικοί μετά από αποτυχία της θεραπείας στέρσης ανδρικών, στους οποίους η χημειοθεραπεία δεν ενδείκνυται ακόμα κλινικά. • τη θεραπεία του μεταστατικού ανθεκτικού στον ενουσιχισμό καρκίνου του προστάτη σε ενήλικες άνδρες των οποίων η νόσος έχει εξελιχθεί κατά τη διάρκεια ή μετά από θεραπεία με χημειοθεραπευτικό σχήμα που περιέχει δοσεταξέλη. **Αντενδείξεις:** - Υπεραισθησία στη δραστική ουσία ή σε κάποιο από τα εκδοχα. - Γυναίκες που είναι ή μπορεί να είναι έγκυες. - Σοβαρή ηπιατική δυσλειτουργία [Κατηγορία C κατά Child-Pugh (βλέπε παράγραφο Ειδικές προειδοποιήσεις και προφυλάξεις κατά τη χρήση)]. **Ειδικές προειδοποιήσεις και προφυλάξεις κατά τη χρήση:** **Υπέρταση, υποκαλιαιμία, κατακράτηση υγρών και καρδιακή ανεπάρκεια λόγω περσιόσας αλατοκορτικοειδών:** Το ZYTIΓA μπορεί να προκαλέσει υπέρταση, υποκαλιαιμία και κατακράτηση υγρών (βλέπε παράγραφο Ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες) ως συνέπεια αυξημένων επιπέδων αλατοκορτικοειδών που προκύπτουν από την αναστολή του CYP17. Η συγχρήση ενός κορτικοστεροειδούς καταστέλλει την ώση της φλοισοεπιδιότροπου ορμόνης (ACTH), οδηγώντας σε μείωση της επίπτωσης και της σοβαρότητας αυτών των ανεπιθύμητων ενεργειών. Απαιτείται προσοχή στη θεραπεία ασθενών των οποίων η υποκείμενη ιατρική κατάσταση μπορεί να διακυβεύεται από τις αυξήσεις στην αρτηριακή πίεση, την υποκαλιαιμία (π.χ. σε όσους λαμβάνουν καρδιακές γλυκοσίδες), ή την κατακράτηση υγρών (π.χ. σε όσους πάσχουν από καρδιακή ανεπάρκεια), σοβαρή ή σταθερή στήθαγχη, πρόσφατο έμφραγμα του μυοκαρδίου ή κολιακή αρρυθμία και των ασθενών με σοβαρή νεφρική δυσλειτουργία. Το ZYTIΓA πρέπει να χρησιμοποιείται με προσοχή σε ασθενείς με ιστορικό καρδιαγγειακής νόσου. Από τις μελέτες φάσης 3 οι οποίες διεξήχθησαν με το ZYTIΓA αποκλεισθκαν ασθενείς με μη ελεγχόμενη υπέρταση, κλινικά σημαντική καρδιοπάθεια, όπως προκύπτει από έμφραγμα του μυοκαρδίου ή αρτηριακά θρομβωτικά επεισόδια, τους προηγούμενους 6 μήνες, σοβαρή ή σταθερή στήθαγχη ή καρδιακή ανεπάρκεια Κατηγορίας III ή IV κατά NYHA (μελέτη 301) ή καρδιακή ανεπάρκεια Κατηγορίας II έως IV (μελέτη 302) ή κλάσμα εξώθησης <50%. Στη μελέτη 302 εξαιρέθηκαν οι ασθενείς με κολιακή μαρμαρυγή, ή άλλη καρδιακή αρρυθμία που απαιτούσε ιατρική θεραπεία. Η ασφάλεια σε ασθενείς με κλάσμα εξώθησης αριστερής κοιλίας < 50% ή με καρδιακή ανεπάρκεια κατηγορίας III ή IV κατά NYHA (στη μελέτη 301) ή καρδιακή ανεπάρκεια Κατηγορίας II έως IV κατά NYHA (στη μελέτη 302) δεν τεκμηριώθηκε (βλέπε παράγραφο Ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες). Πριν από τη θεραπεία ασθενών με σημαντικό κίνδυνο για υποκαλιαιμία (π.χ. ιστορικό καρδιακής ανεπάρκειας, μη ελεγχόμενη υπέρταση, ή καρδιακή επεισόδια όπως ισχαιμική καρδιοπάθεια), εξετάστε το ενδεχόμενο να γίνει αξιολόγηση της καρδιακής λειτουργίας (π.χ. ηχοκαρδιογράφημα). Πριν από τη θεραπεία με ZYTIΓA, πρέπει να αντιμετωπιστεί η καρδιακή ανεπάρκεια και να βελτιστοποιηθεί η καρδιακή λειτουργία. Η υπέρταση, η υποκαλιαιμία και η κατακράτηση υγρών πρέπει να διορθώνονται και να ελέγχονται. Κατά τη διάρκεια της θεραπείας, η αρτηριακή πίεση, τα επίπεδα καλίου στον ορό, η κατακράτηση υγρών (αίδηση βάρους, περιφερικό οίδημα), και άλλα σημεία και συμπτώματα της συμφορητικής καρδιακής ανεπάρκειας πρέπει να παρακολουθούνται κάθε 2 εβδομάδες για 3 μήνες, έπειτα σε μηνιαία βάση και να διορθώνονται οι ανωμαλίες. Παράταση του διαστήματος QT έχει παρατηρηθεί σε ασθενείς που παρουσιάζουν υποκαλιαιμία σε συνδυασμό με τη θεραπεία με ZYTIΓA. Αξιολογήστε την καρδιακή λειτουργία όπως ενδεικνύεται κλινικά, εγκαταστήστε την κατάλληλη αντιμετώπιση και εξετάστε το ενδεχόμενο της διακοπής αυτής της θεραπείας εάν υπάρχει κλινικά σημαντική μείωση στην καρδιακή λειτουργία. **Ηπατοτοξικότητα και ηπιατική δυσλειτουργία:** Σε ελεγχόμενες κλινικές μελέτες σημειώθηκαν σημαντικές αυξήσεις στα ηπιατικά ένζυμα, οι οποίες οδήγησαν στη διακοπή της θεραπείας ή σε τροποποίηση της δόσης (βλέπε παράγραφο Ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες). Το επίπεδο τρανσαμινοξικών ορού πρέπει να μετρώνται πριν από την έναρξη της θεραπείας, κάθε δύο εβδομάδες για τους πρώτους τρεις μήνες της θεραπείας και κάθε μήνα στη συνέχεια. Αν εμφανιστούν κλινικά συμπτώματα ή σημεία που υποδεικνύουν ηπατοτοξικότητα, πρέπει να μετρηθούν αμέσως οι τρανσαμινοξικοί ορού. Αν η ALT ή η AST αυξηθεί, οποιαδήποτε στιγμή, πάνω από το πενταπλάσιο του ανώτατου φυσιολογικού ορίου, η θεραπεία πρέπει να διακοπεί αμέσως και η ηπιατική λειτουργία πρέπει να παρακολουθείται στενά. Η επαναθεραπεία μπορεί να ξεκινήσει μόνο αφού οι δοκιμασίες ηπιατικής λειτουργίας του ασθενούς επιστρέψουν στα αρχικά επίπεδα και με μειωμένο επίπεδο δόσης. Αν οι ασθενείς εμφανίσουν σοβαρή ηπατοτοξικότητα (ALT ή AST εικοσάπλάσιο του ανώτατου φυσιολογικού ορίου) οποιαδήποτε στιγμή κατά τη διάρκεια της θεραπείας, η θεραπεία πρέπει να διακοπεί και οι ασθενείς δεν πρέπει να ακολουθήσουν επαναθεραπεία. Οι ασθενείς με ενεργό ή συμπτωματική ιογενή ηπατίτιδα αποκλεισθηκαν από τις κλινικές μελέτες, επομένως δεν υπάρχουν δεδομένα, τα οποία να υποστηρίξουν τη χρήση του ZYTIΓA στον πληθυσμό αυτόν. Δεν υπάρχουν δεδομένα για την κλινική ασφάλεια και αποτελεσματικότητα πολλαπλών δόσεων οξικής αμιπρατερόνης όταν χορηγείται σε ασθενείς με μέτρια ή σοβαρή ηπιατική δυσλειτουργία (Κατηγορία Β ή C κατά Child-Pugh). Η χρήση του ZYTIΓA πρέπει να αξιολογείται προσεκτικά σε ασθενείς με μέτρια ηπιατική δυσλειτουργία, στους οποίους το όφελος πιθανώς πρέπει να ανισορροπείται με το πιθανό κίνδυνο. Το ZYTIΓA δεν πρέπει να χρησιμοποιείται σε ασθενείς με σοβαρή ηπιατική δυσλειτουργία (βλέπε παράγραφο Αντενδείξεις). **Απόσυρση κορτικοστεροειδών και κάλυψη στρεσογόνων καταστάσεων:** Συνιστάται προσοχή και παρακολούθηση σε περίπτωση φλοισοεπιδιότροπης ανεπάρκειας, αν οι ασθενείς αποσυρθούν από την πρεδνιζόνη ή πρεδνιζολόνη. Αν το ZYTIΓA συγχρησιμοποιείται μετά από την απόσυρση των κορτικοστεροειδών, οι ασθενείς πρέπει να παρακολουθούνται για συμπτώματα περσιόσας αλατοκορτικοειδών (βλέπε πληροφορίες παραπάνω). Σε ασθενείς υπό πρεδνιζόνη ή πρεδνιζολόνη που βιώνουν μη συντηγημένη στρεσογόνο κατάσταση, μπορεί να ενδεικνύεται αυξημένη δόση κορτικοστεροειδών πριν, κατά τη διάρκεια και μετά από την στρεσογόνο κατάσταση. **Οστική μάζα:** Μείωση της οστικής μάζας μπορεί να συμβεί σε άνδρες με μεταστατικό προχωρημένο καρκίνο του προστάτη (ανθεκτικό στον ενουσιχισμό καρκίνου του προστάτη). Η χρήση του ZYTIΓA σε συνδυασμό με ένα γλυκοκορτικοειδές μπορεί να αυξήσει αυτή την επίδραση. **Προηγούμενη χρήση κετοκοναζόλης:** Σε ασθενείς που έχουν προηγουμένως λάβει θεραπεία με κετοκοναζόλη για τον καρκίνο του προστάτη, μπορεί να αναμένονται χαμηλότερα ποσοστά ανταπόκρισης. **Υπερκαλιαιμία:** Η χρήση των γλυκοκορτικοειδών θα μπορούσε να αυξήσει την υπερκαλιαιμία, συνεπώς πρέπει να μετρώνται συχνά τα επίπεδα του σακχάρου στο αίμα σε ασθενείς με διαβήτη. **Χρήση με χημειοθεραπεία:** Η ασφάλεια και η αποτελεσματικότητα της ταυτόχρονης χρήσης του ZYTIΓA με κυταροδική χημειοθεραπεία δεν έχουν τεκμηριωθεί. **Δυσανεξία σε εκδοχα:** Αυτό το φαρμακευτικό προϊόν περιέχει λακτόζη. Ασθενείς με σπάνια κληρονομικά προβλήματα δυσανεξίας στη γαλακτόζη, ανεπάρκεια λακτάσης Lapp ή δυσασπορόφηση γλυκόζης – γαλακτόζης δεν πρέπει να λαμβάνουν αυτό το φάρμακο. Αυτό το φαρμακευτικό προϊόν περιέχει περισσότερο από 1 mmol (ή 27,2 mg) νατρίου σε κάθε δόση των τεσσάρων δισκίων. Να λαμβάνεται υπόψη από ασθενείς που ακολουθούν δίαιτα με περιορισμένες ποσότητες νατρίου. **Πιθανοί κίνδυνοι:** Αναιμία και αεζωσιακή δυσλειτουργία μπορεί να εμφανιστούν σε άνδρες με ανθεκτικό στον ενουσιχισμό μεταστατικό καρκίνο του προστάτη συμπεριλαμβανομένων εκείνων που υποβάλλονται σε θεραπεία με ZYTIΓA. **Επιδράσεις στους σκελετικούς ιστούς:** Έχουν αναφερθεί περιπτώσεις μυοπάθειας σε ασθενείς που έλαβαν θεραπεία με ZYTIΓA. Ορισμένοι ασθενείς είχαν ραβδομυόλυση με νεφρική ανεπάρκεια. Οι περισσότερες περιπτώσεις εμφανίστηκαν εντός του πρώτου μήνα της θεραπείας και ήταν αποκαταστάθηκαν μετά τη διακοπή του ZYTIΓA. Συνιστάται προσοχή σε ασθενείς που λαμβάνουν ταυτόχρονα φάρμακα που είναι γνωστό ότι συνδέονται με μυοπάθεια/ραβδομυόλυση. **Αλληλεπιδράσεις με άλλα φαρμακευτικά προϊόντα:** Οι ισχυροί επαγωγείς του CYP3A4 πρέπει να αποφεύγονται κατά τη διάρκεια της θεραπείας λόγω του κινδύνου μειωμένης έκθεσης στην αμιπρατερόνη, εκτός εάν δεν υπάρχει εναλλακτική θεραπεία. **Ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες:** Περιλήψη του προφίλ ασφαλείας: Οι συνθεστέρες ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες που έχουν παρατηρηθεί είναι το περιφερικό οίδημα, η υποκαλιαιμία, η υπέρταση και η ουρολοιμία. Άλλες σημαντικές ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες περιλαμβάνουν τις καρδιακές διαταραχές, την ηπατοτοξικότητα, τα κατάγματα και την αλλεργική κυψελιδοπάθεια. Το ZYTIΓA μπορεί να προκαλέσει υπέρταση, υποκαλιαιμία και κατακράτηση υγρών στο πλαίσιο των φαρμακοδυναμικών συνεπειών του μηχανισμού δράσης του. Σε κλινικές μελέτες, οι αναμενόμενες αλατοκορτικοειδείς ανεπιθύμητες αντιδράσεις παρατηρήθηκαν συνήθιστα στους ασθενείς που έλαβαν θεραπεία με οξική αμιπρατερόνη σε σχέση με τους ασθενείς που έλαβαν θεραπεία με εικονικό φάρμακο: υποκαλιαιμία 21% έναντι 11%, υπέρταση 16% έναντι 11% και κατακράτηση υγρών (περιφερικό οίδημα) 26% έναντι 20%, αντίστοιχα. Στους ασθενείς που έλαβαν θεραπεία με οξική αμιπρατερόνη, παρατηρήθηκε υποκαλιαιμία Βαθμών 3 και 4 κατά CΤCAE (έκδοση 3.0) και υπέρταση Βαθμών 3 και 4 κατά CΤCAE (έκδοση 3.0) στο 4% και 2% των ασθενών, αντίστοιχα. Οι αλατοκορτικοειδείς αντιδράσεις ήταν γενικά δυνατόν να αντιμετωπιστούν ιατρικά. Η ταυτόχρονη χρήση κορτικοστεροειδών μειώνει την επίπτωση και τη σοβαρότητα αυτών των ανεπιθύμητων ενεργειών (βλέπε παράγραφο Ειδικές προειδοποιήσεις και προφυλάξεις κατά τη χρήση). **Συνολική παρουσίαση των ανεπιθύμητων ενεργειών υπό μορφή πίνακα:** Σε μελέτες ασθενών με μεταστατικό προχωρημένο καρκίνο του προστάτη που χρησιμοποιούν ανάλογο της ορμόνης απελευθέρωσης της χωρνοιοπητικής ορμόνης (LHRH) ή είχαν υποβληθεί προηγούμενες σε ορκεκτομή, το ZYTIΓA χορηγήθηκε σε δόση 1.000 mg ημερησίως σε συνδυασμό με υψηλή δόση πρεδνιζόνης ή πρεδνιζολόνης (10 mg ημερησίως). Οι ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες που παρατηρήθηκαν κατά τη διάρκεια των κλινικών μελετών και από την εμπειρία μετά την κυκλοφορία του ZYTIΓA αναφέρονται στη συνέχεια ανά κατηγορία συχνότητας. Οι κατηγορίες

συχνότητας ορίζονται ως εξής: πολύ συχνές (≥ 1/10), συχνές (≥ 1/100 έως < 1/10), όχι συχνές (≥ 1/1.000 έως < 1/100), σπάνιες (≥ 1/10.000 έως < 1/1.000), πολύ σπάνιες (< 1/10.000) και μη γνωστές (η συχνότητα δεν μπορεί να εκτιμηθεί με βάση τα διαθέσιμα δεδομένα). Εντός κάθε ομάδας συχνότητας, οι ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες εμφανίζονται με σειρά φθίνουσας σοβαρότητας.

Πίνακας 1: Ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες που αναφέρθηκαν στις κλινικές μελέτες και μετά την κυκλοφορία του προϊόντος	
<b>Λοιμώξεις και παρασιτώσεις</b>	πολύ συχνές: ουρολοιμία συχνές: σηψαιμία
<b>Διαταραχές του ενδοκρινικού συστήματος</b>	όχι συχνές: επινεφριδιακή ανεπάρκεια
<b>Διαταραχές του μεταβολισμού και της θρέψης</b>	πολύ συχνές: υποκαλιαιμία συχνές: υπερτριγλυκεριδαμία
<b>Καρδιακές διαταραχές</b>	συχνές: καρδιακή ανεπάρκεια*, στήθαγχη, αρρυθμία, κολιακή μαρμαρυγή, ταχυκαρδία μη γνωστές: έμφραγμα του μυοκαρδίου, παράταση του διαστήματος QT (βλέπε παράγραφο Ειδικές προειδοποιήσεις και προφυλάξεις κατά τη χρήση)
<b>Αγγειακές διαταραχές</b>	πολύ συχνές: υπέρταση
<b>Διαταραχές του αναπνευστικού συστήματος, του θώρακα και του μεσοθωράκιου</b>	σπάνιες: αλλεργική κυψελιδοπάθ*
<b>Διαταραχές του γαστρεντερικού</b>	πολύ συχνές: διάρροια συχνές: δυσπεψία
<b>Διαταραχές του ήπατος και των χοληφόρων</b>	συχνές: αυξημένη αμινοτρανσφεράση της αλανίνης, αυξημένη ασπαρτική αμινοτρανσφεράση
<b>Διαταραχές του δέρματος και του υποδόριου ιστού</b>	συχνές: εξάνθημα
<b>Διαταραχές του μυσκελετικού συστήματος και του συνδετικού ιστού</b>	όχι συχνές: μυοπάθεια, ραβδομυόλυση
<b>Διαταραχές των νεφρών και των ουροφόρων οδών</b>	συχνές: αιματουρία
<b>Γενικές διαταραχές και καταστάσεις της οδού χορήγησης</b>	πολύ συχνές: περιφερικό οίδημα
<b>Κακώσεις, δηλητηριάσεις και επιπλοκές θεραπευτικών χειρισμών</b>	συχνές: κατάγματα**

\* Η καρδιακή ανεπάρκεια περιλαμβάνει, επίσης, τη συμφορητική καρδιακή ανεπάρκεια, τη δυσλειτουργία αριστερής κοιλίας και το μειωμένο κλάσμα εξώθησης  
\*\* Τα κατάγματα περιλαμβάνουν όλα τα κατάγματα με την εξαίρεση του παθολογικού κατάγματος  
\* Αυθρόμερες αναφορές από την εμπειρία μετά την κυκλοφορία

Οι ακόλουθες ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες Βαθμού 3 κατά CΤCAE (έκδοση 3.0) έχουν παρατηρηθεί σε ασθενείς που έχουν ακολουθήσει θεραπεία με οξική αμιπρατερόνη: υποκαλιαιμία 3%, ουρολοιμία, αυξημένη αμινοτρανσφεράση της αλανίνης, υπέρταση, αυξημένη ασπαρτική αμινοτρανσφεράση, κατάγματα 2%, περιφερικό οίδημα, καρδιακή ανεπάρκεια και κολιακή μαρμαρυγή, 1% το καθένα. Υπερτριγλυκεριδαμία και στήθαγχη Βαθμού 3 κατά CΤCAE (έκδοση 3.0) παρατηρήθηκαν σε < 1% των ασθενών. Περιφερικό οίδημα, υποκαλιαιμία, ουρολοιμία, καρδιακή ανεπάρκεια και κατάγματα Βαθμού 4 κατά CΤCAE (έκδοση 3.0) παρατηρήθηκαν σε < 1% των ασθενών. **Περιγραφή επιλεγμένων ανεπιθύμητων ενεργειών: Καρδιαγγειακές αντιδράσεις:** Και οι δύο μελέτες φάσης 3 απέκλειαν τη συμμετοχή ασθενών με μη ελεγχόμενη υπέρταση, κλινικά σημαντική καρδιοπάθεια, η οποία επιβεβαιωνόταν από έμφραγμα του μυοκαρδίου, ή αρτηριακά θρομβωτικά συμβάντα τους τελευταίους 6 μήνες, σοβαρή ή σταθερή στήθαγχη, ή καρδιακή ανεπάρκεια κατηγορίας III ή IV σύμφωνα με την NYHA (μελέτη 301) ή καρδιακή ανεπάρκεια κατηγορίας II έως IV (μελέτη 302) ή με μέτρηση καρδιακού κλάσματος εξώθησης < 50%. Όλοι οι ασθενείς που εντάχθηκαν στη μελέτη (όσοι οι ασθενείς που έλαβαν ενεργό φάρμακο και αυτοί που έλαβαν εικονικό φάρμακο) έλαβαν παράλληλα θεραπεία στέρσης ανδρικών, κυρίως με τη χρήση ανάλογων της LHRH, η οποία έχει σχετιστεί με διαβήτη, έμφραγμα του μυοκαρδίου, αγγειακό εγκεφαλικό επεισόδιο και αιφνίδιο καρδιακό θάνατο. Η επίπτωση των καρδιαγγειακών ανεπιθύμητων ενεργειών στις μελέτες φάσης 3 σε ασθενείς που λάμβαναν οξική αμιπρατερόνη σε ασθενείς που έλαβαν εικονικό φάρμακο ήταν ως εξής: υπέρταση 14,5% έναντι 10,5%, κολιακή μαρμαρυγή 3,4% έναντι 3,4%, ταχυκαρδία 2,8% έναντι 1,7%, στήθαγχη 1,9% έναντι 0,9%, καρδιακή ανεπάρκεια 1,9% έναντι 0,6%, και αρρυθμία 1,1% έναντι 0,4%. **Ηπατοτοξικότητα:** Έχει αναφερθεί ηπατοτοξικότητα με αυξημένη ALT, ασπαρτική τρανσαμινοξική (AST) και ολική χολερυθρίνη σε ασθενείς που έλαβαν θεραπεία με οξική αμιπρατερόνη. Σε όλες τις κλινικές μελέτες, οι αυξήσεις στις δοκιμασίες ηπιατικής λειτουργίας (αυξήσεις της ALT ή της AST > 5 x ULN ή αυξήσεις χολερυθρίνης > 1,5 x ULN) αναφέρθηκαν στο 4% περίπου των ασθενών που έλαβαν οξική αμιπρατερόνη, συνήθως κατά τη διάρκεια των πρώτων 3 μηνών από την έναρξη της θεραπείας. Στην κλινική μελέτη 301, οι ασθενείς με αυξημένες τιμές ALT ή AST κατά την έναρξη της μελέτης ήταν πιθανότερο να εμφανίσουν αυξημένες τιμές στις δοκιμασίες ηπιατικής λειτουργίας σε σχέση με τους ασθενείς με φυσιολογικές τιμές κατά την έναρξη της μελέτης. Όταν παρατηρήθηκαν αυξήσεις είτε της ALT είτε της AST > 5 x ULN ή αυξήσεις στη χολερυθρίνη > 3 x ULN, η χορήγηση οξικής αμιπρατερόνης διακόπη προωριανά ή οριστικά. Σε δύο περιπτώσεις σημειώθηκαν σημαντικές αυξήσεις στις τιμές των δοκιμασιών ηπιατικής λειτουργίας (βλέπε παράγραφο Ειδικές προειδοποιήσεις και προφυλάξεις κατά τη χρήση). Οι δύο αυτοί ασθενείς με φυσιολογική ηπιατική λειτουργία κατά την έναρξη της μελέτης, εμφάνισαν αυξήσεις στην ALT ή την AST 15 έως 40 x ULN και αυξήσεις στις τιμές της χολερυθρίνης 2 έως 6 x ULN. Κατά τη διακοπή της θεραπείας, οι τιμές των δοκιμασιών ηπιατικής λειτουργίας υποκαλιαιμία και στους δύο ασθενείς και ο ένας ασθενής συνέχισε τη θεραπεία χωρίς να επανεμφανιστούν αυξήσεις. Στη μελέτη 302, παρατηρήθηκαν αυξήσεις Βαθμού 3 ή 4 στην ALT ή την AST σε 35 (6,5%) ασθενείς που έλαβαν θεραπεία με οξική αμιπρατερόνη. Οι αυξήσεις της αμινοτρανσφεράσης αποκαταστάθηκαν σε όλους εκτός από 3 ασθενείς (2 με νέες πολλαπλές μεταστάσεις στο ήπαρ και 1 με αύξηση στην AST περίπου 3 εβδομάδες μετά την τελευταία δόση οξικής αμιπρατερόνης). Διακοπή στη θεραπεία λόγω των αυξήσεων των ALT και AST αναφέρθηκε στο 1,7% και 1,3% των ασθενών που λάμβαναν θεραπεία με οξική αμιπρατερόνη και στο 0,2% και 0% των ασθενών που λάμβαναν εικονικό φάρμακο, αντίστοιχα. Δεν αναφέρθηκαν θάνατοι λόγω ηπατοτοξικού συμβάματος. Στις κλινικές δοκιμές, ο κίνδυνος ηπατοτοξικότητας μετριάστηκε από τον αποκλεισμό ασθενών με ηπατίτιδα κατά την έναρξη ή σημαντικές ανωμαλίες στους δείκτες της ηπιατικής λειτουργίας. Στη δοκιμή 301, εξαιρέθηκαν οι ασθενείς με αρχική ALT και AST ≥ 2,5 x ULN σύμφωνα με τα δεδομένα στο ήπαρ και > 5 x ULN παρουσία μεταστάσεων στο ήπαρ. Στη δοκιμή 302 οι ασθενείς με μεταστάσεις στο ήπαρ δεν ήταν κατάλληλοι για ένταξη και οι ασθενείς με αρχική ALT και AST ≥ 2,5 x ULN εξαιρέθηκαν. Οι παθολογικές τιμές στις δοκιμασίες ηπιατικής λειτουργίας που εμφανίστηκαν στους ασθενείς που συμμετείχαν στις κλινικές μελέτες αντιμετωπίστηκαν εντατικά με υποχωρητική προωριανή διακοπή της θεραπείας και δυνατότητα συνέχισης της θεραπείας μόνο εφόσον οι τιμές των δοκιμασιών ηπιατικής λειτουργίας του ασθενούς είχαν επιστρέψει στα αρχικά επίπεδα. Οι ασθενείς με επίπεδα ALT ή AST > 20 x ULN δεν ακολούθησαν επαναθεραπεία. Η ασφάλεια της επαναθεραπείας στους ασθενείς αυτούς δεν είναι γνωστή. Ο μηχανισμός που προκαλεί ηπατοτοξικότητα δεν έχει γίνει κατανοητός. **Αναφορά πιθανολογούμενων ανεπιθύμητων ενεργειών:** Η αναφορά πιθανολογούμενων ανεπιθύμητων ενεργειών μετά από τη χορήγηση άδειας κυκλοφορίας του φαρμακευτικού προϊόντος είναι σημαντική. Επιτρέπει τη συνεχή παρακολούθηση της σχέσης οφέλους-κινδύνου του φαρμακευτικού προϊόντος. Ζητείται από τους επαγγελματίες του τομέα της υγείας να αναφέρουν αναφορές οποιαδήποτε πιθανολογούμενες ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες μέσω του εθνικού συστήματος αναφοράς που αναγράφεται στο **Παράρτημα V, ΚΑΤΟΧΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΑΔΕΙΑΣ ΚΥΚΛΟΦΟΡΙΑΣ:** Janssen-Cilag International NV, Turnhoutseweg 30, B-2340 Beerse, Βέλγιο. **ΑΡΙΘΜΟΣ(ΟΙ) ΑΔΕΙΑΣ ΚΥΚΛΟΦΟΡΙΑΣ:** EU/1/17/174/001. **ΗΜΕΡΟΜΗΝΙΑ ΑΝΑΘΕΩΡΗΣΗΣ ΤΟΥ ΚΙΝΕΜΑΤΟΣ:** 10 Δεκεμβρίου 2015. **Απομνημόνευση πληροφοριακού στοιχείου για το παρόν φαρμακευτικό προϊόν είναι διαθέσιμο στον δικτυακό τόπο του Ευρωπαϊκού Οργανισμού Φαρμάκων: <http://www.ema.europa.eu>. **ΤΡΟΠΟΣ ΔΙΑΘΕΣΗΣ:** Φαρμακευτικό προϊόν για το οποίο απαιτείται ιατρική συνταγή.**

## ΣΥΝΘΕΣΗ / ΤΙΜΗ:

Περιεκτικότητα	Μέγεθος συσκευασίας	Νοσοκομειακή τιμή	Λιανική Τιμή
ΔΙΣΚΙΟ 250 MG/TAB	ΦΙΑΛΗ (HDPE) x 120 ΔΙΣΚΙΑ	2.652,00€	3.196,96€

# SEE THE DIFFERENCE

Το ZYTIGA® παρέχει σημαντικό όφελος στην καθημερινή ποιότητα ζωής των ασθενών<sup>1</sup>

## ΚΟΠΩΣΗ

Το ZYTIGA® **ΒΕΛΤΙΩΝΕΙ ΤΗΝ ΚΟΠΩΣΗ** σε ασθενείς μετά από αποτυχία χημειοθεραπείας και **ΔΕΝ ΠΡΟΚΑΛΕΙ ΠΕΡΑΙΤΕΡΩ ΚΟΠΩΣΗ** σε ασθενείς μετά από αποτυχία θεραπείας στέρησης ανδρογόνων<sup>2,3</sup>

## ΝΕΥΡΟΛΟΓΙΚΕΣ ΔΙΑΤΑΡΑΧΕΣ

Το ZYTIGA® **ΔΕΝ ΠΡΟΚΑΛΕΙ** διαταραχές του νευρικού συστήματος, όπως επιληπτικές κρίσεις ή ψυχιατρικές διαταραχές<sup>4</sup>

## ΟΔΗΓΗΣΗ

Το ZYTIGA® **ΔΕΝ ΕΠΗΡΕΑΖΕΙ** την ικανότητα οδήγησης<sup>4</sup>

## ΠΤΩΣΕΙΣ

Το ZYTIGA® **ΔΕΝ ΠΡΟΚΑΛΕΙ** πτώσεις<sup>4</sup>

## ΔΥΝΑΤΟΤΗΤΑ ΣΥΓΧΟΡΗΓΗΣΗΣ

Το ZYTIGA® **ΔΕΝ ΑΛΛΗΛΕΠΙΔΡΑ** με συνήθη φάρμακα όπως στατίνες, β-αποκλειστές ή αντιπηκτικά<sup>4</sup>



once-daily tablets  
**Zytiga** ▼  
abiraterone acetate

Βιβλιογραφία: 1. Naimi AB, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2014;32(Supplement):abstract e16102. 2. Rathkopf DE, et al. Eur Urol. 2014;66:815-25. 3. Zemborg CN, et al. Ann Oncol. 2013;24(10):7-25. 4. ZYTIGA® Περιγραφή των Χαρακτηριστικών του Προϊόντος

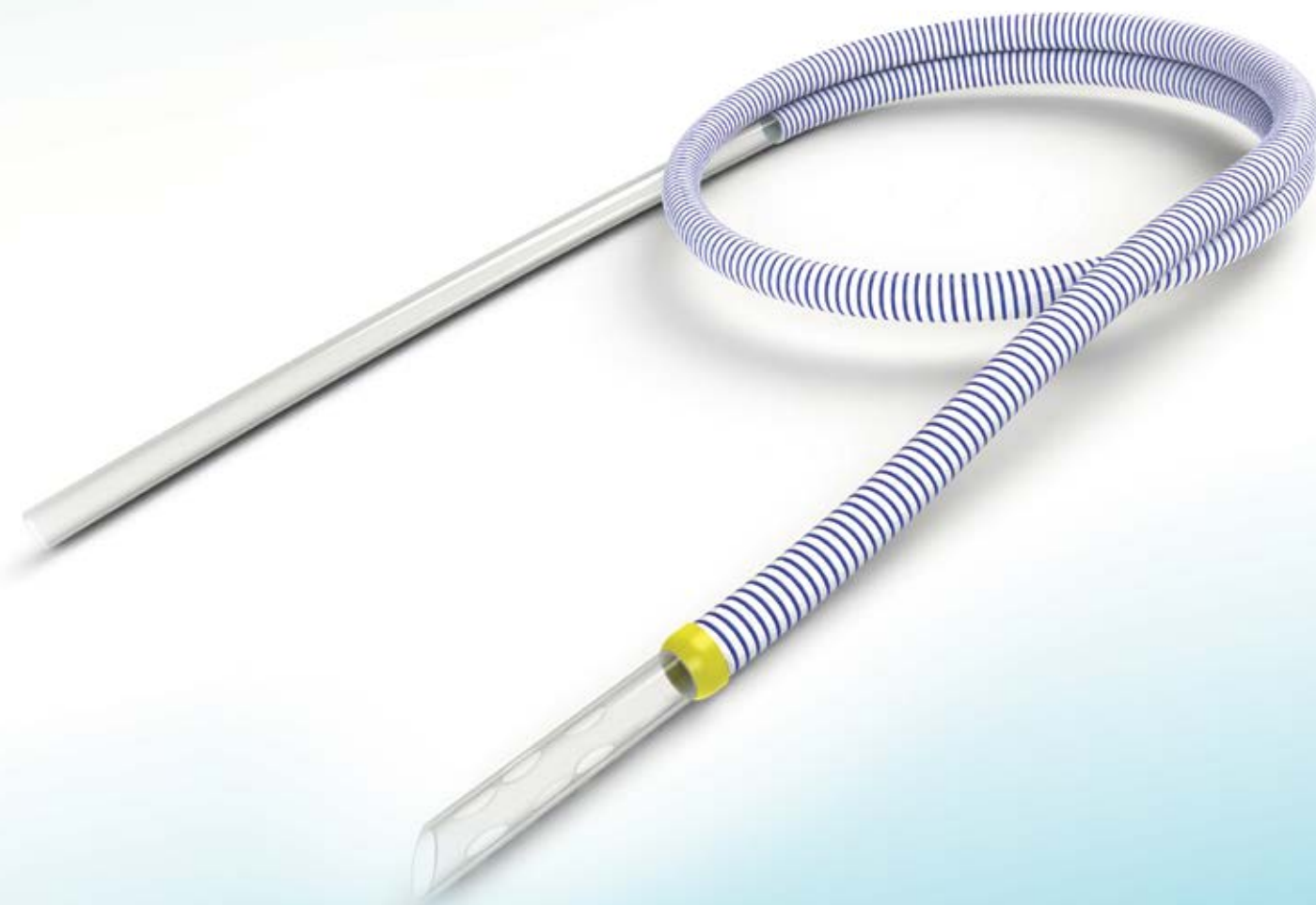
Η Περιγραφή των Χαρακτηριστικών του Προϊόντος βρίσκεται σε επόμενη σελίδα.

**JANSSEN-CILAG ΦΑΡΜΑΚΕΥΤΙΚΗ Α.Ε.Β.Ε.**

Λεωφόρος Ειρήνης 56, 151 21, Πεύκη, Αθήνα, Τηλ.: 210 8090000  
www.janssen.com.gr

Βοηθήστε να γίνουν τα φάρμακα πιο ασφαλή και  
Αναφέρετε  
ΟΛΕΣ τις ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες για  
ΟΛΑ τα φάρμακα  
Συμπληρώνοντας την «ΚΙΤΡΙΝΗ ΚΑΡΤΑ»

**janssen**   
PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES  
OF Janssen-Cilag



# Detour

## Subcutaneous ureteral bypass

- Large internal diameter to prevent obstruction
- Renal tip & bladder end made of silicone
- Radiopaque ring for easy identification during placement
- External polyester sheath for good anchorage in tissue

Bypass		Amplatz sheath		Tunneling device	
Inner Ø (Ch/Fr)	Length (cm)	Inner Ø (Ch/Fr)	Length (cm)	Inner Ø (Ch/Fr)	Length (cm)
17	84	30	19	33	57.5



# ELITYRAN<sup>®</sup> DPS

LEUPRORELIN ACETATE Depot inj. 3,75mg / 11,25mg



## Καλώς ήρθες πίσω...

### || ELITYRAN<sup>®</sup> 1 Month Depot (DPS) 3,75 mg/PF.SYR.

- Κόνις και διαλύτης για ενέσιμο εναιώρημα. Κάθε προγεμισμένη σύριγγα περιέχει 3.75 mg Leuprorelin acetate.

### || ELITYRAN<sup>®</sup> 3 Month Depot (DPS) 11,25 mg/PF.SYR.

- Κόνις και διαλύτης για ενέσιμο εναιώρημα. Κάθε προγεμισμένη σύριγγα περιέχει 11.25mg Leuprorelin acetate.

**DPS:** Dual Prefilled Syringe = Δίχωρη προγεμισμένη σύριγγα

Περαιτέρω πληροφορίες διατίθενται από τον κάτοχο άδειας κυκλοφορίας κατόπιν αιτήσεως.

**Βοηθήστε να γίνουν τα φάρμακα πιο ασφαλή και Αναφέρετε  
ΟΛΕΣ τις ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες για  
ΟΛΑ τα φάρμακα  
Συμπληρώνοντας την «ΚΙΤΡΙΝΗ ΚΑΡΤΑ»**



www.takeda.gr

Λ. Κηφισίας 44, Μαρούσι, 151 25 Αθήνα,  
τηλ.: 210 6387800, fax: 210 6387801  
Λ. Καραμανλή 60, 546 42 Θεσ/νίκη,  
τηλ.: 2310 870480, fax: 2310 870479



# ΠΕΡΙΛΗΨΗ ΧΑΡΑΚΤΗΡΙΣΤΙΚΩΝ ΤΟΥ ΠΡΟΪΟΝΤΟΣ

**1. ΟΝΟΜΑΣΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΦΑΡΜΑΚΕΥΤΙΚΟΥ ΠΡΟΪΟΝΤΟΣ:** Arvekar 11,25 mg/vial (3 μνών). **2. ΠΟΙΟΤΙΚΗ ΚΑΙ ΠΟΣΟΤΙΚΗ ΣΥΝΘΕΣΗ:** Ένα φιαλίδιο περιέχει 15mg triptorelin pamoate, που αντιστοιχεί σε 11,25mg triptorelin. Για τον πλήρη κατάλογο των εκδόχων βλ. παράγραφο 6.1. **3. ΦΑΡΜΑΚΟΤΕΧΝΙΚΗ ΜΟΡΦΗ:** Κόνις και διαλύτης για ενέσιμο εναιώρημα. **4. ΚΛΙΝΙΚΕΣ ΠΛΗΡΟΦΟΡΙΕΣ:** 4.1. **Θεραπευτικές Ενδείξεις:** - **Καρκίνος του προστάτη:** Θεραπεία του τοπικά προχωρημένου ή μεταστατικού καρκίνου του προστάτη (ευνοϊκή επίδραση της θεραπείας είναι εμφανέστερη και συχνότερη σε ασθενείς που δεν είναι λήβη προηγουμένως άλλη ορμονική θεραπεία). - **Ενδομητρίωση:** Γεννητική και εξογεννητική ενδομητρίωση (στάδιο I-IV). - **Ινομυώματα μήτρας:** Θεραπεία των ινομυωμάτων μήτρας. - **Πρώιμη ήβη:** Προ της ηλικίας των 8 ετών στα κορίτσια και των 10 ετών στα αγόρια. **4.2. Δοσολογία και τρόπος χορήγησης:** - **Καρκίνος του προστάτη:** Μία ενδομυϊκή ένεση του Arvekar 11,25mg κάθε τρεις μήνες. - **Ενδομητρίωση:** Μία ενδομυϊκή ένεση του Arvekar 11,25mg κάθε τρεις μήνες. Η θεραπεία πρέπει να αρχίζει τις πρώτες πέντε ημέρες του καταμήνιου κύκλου. Διάρκεια της θεραπείας ενδομητρίωσης: αυτή εξαρτάται από την αρχική βαρύτητα της ενδομητρίωσης και τις αλλαγές που παρατηρούνται στην κλινική εικόνα (λειποθυμικές και ανατομικές) κατά τη διάρκεια της θεραπείας. Γενικά, συνιστάται η ενδομητρίωση να θεραπεύεται για διάστημα 3 μηνών και μόνον αν αποδειχθεί στους 3 μήνες ότι η θεραπεία απέδωσε μπορεί να συνεχισθεί το ανώτερο μέχρι 6 μήνες. Δεν πρέπει να χορηγείται δεύτερη σειρά θεραπείας με αυτό το φαρμακευτικό προϊόν ή άλλο ανάλογο γοναδορελίνης. - **Ινομυώματα:** Μία ενδομυϊκή ένεση του Arvekar 11,25mg κάθε τρεις μήνες. Η θεραπεία πρέπει να αρχίζει τις πρώτες πέντε ημέρες του καταμήνιου κύκλου. Γενικά, συνιστάται να ινομυώματα να θεραπεύονται για διάστημα 3 μηνών και μόνον αν αποδειχθεί στους 3 μήνες ότι η θεραπεία απέδωσε μπορεί να συνεχισθεί το ανώτερο μέχρι 6 μήνες. - **Πρώιμη ήβη:** Παιδιά βάρους άνω των 20 kg λαμβάνουν μία ενδομυϊκή ένεση του Arvekar 11,25mg κάθε τρεις μήνες. Η θεραπεία θα πρέπει να διακοπεί όταν πλησιάζει η φυσιολογική ηλικία της ήβης και δεν θα πρέπει να συνεχίζεται σε κορίτσια με οστική ηλικία μεγαλύτερη των 12 ετών. Υπάρχουν περιορισμένα διαθέσιμα δεδομένα σε αγόρια σχετικά με τον άριστο χρόνο διακοπής της αγωγής βάσει της οστικής ηλικίας, ωστόσο προτείνεται η διακοπή της αγωγής σε αγόρια με οστική ηλικία 13-14 ετών. Για λεπτομερείς οδηγίες στη μέθοδο χορήγησης, βλ. παράγραφο 6.6 "Οδηγίες χρήσης / χειρισμού". **4.3. Αντενδείξεις:** - Υπερευαίσθηση στη γοναδορελίνη, τα ανάλογα της ή σε οποιοδήποτε άλλο συστατικό του φαρμάκου (βλ. παράγραφο 4.8 "Ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες"). - Σε ασθενείς με καρκίνο του προστάτη που παρουσιάζουν συμπίεση του νωτιαίου μυελού ή ενδείξεις μετάστασης. - Κύηση. Πριν την έναρξη της αγωγής πρέπει να επιβεβαιώνεται ότι η ασθενής δεν είναι έγκυος. **4.4. Ειδικές προειδοποιήσεις και προφυλάξεις κατά τη χρήση:** Σε ενήλικες, η παρατεταμένη χρήση αναλόγων GnRH μπορεί να οδηγήσει στην απώλεια οστικής μάζας γεγονός που αυξάνει τον κίνδυνο οστεοπόρωσης. Ρύθμιση της αντιυπερτασικής θεραπείας μπορεί να απαιτείται σε ασθενείς οι οποίοι λαμβάνουν τέτοια αγωγή. - **Καρκίνος του προστάτη:** Η τριπτορελίνη, όπως και τα άλλα ανάλογα GnRH, προκαλεί αρχικά μία παροδική αύξηση στα επίπεδα ορού της τεστοστερόνης, και πιθανά επακόλουθη επίδειξη των συμπτωμάτων που σχετίζονται γενικά με τον καρκίνο του προστάτη. Για να αντισταθμιστεί αυτή η αρχική αύξηση των επιπέδων τεστοστερόνης, μπορεί να εξεταστεί η χορήγηση αντιανδρογόνων κατά την έναρξη της θεραπείας. Ασθενείς που παρουσιάζουν ή έχουν αυξημένο κίνδυνο για ανάπτυξη απόφραξης των ουροφόρων οδών ή συμπίεσης του νωτιαίου μυελού πρέπει να παρακολουθούνται στενά. Είναι χρήσιμος ο περιοδικός έλεγχος των επιπέδων τεστοστερόνης αίματος, καθώς αυτά δεν πρέπει να ξεπερνούν το 1 ng/ml. - **Ενδομητρίωση - Ινομυώματα:** Η χορήγηση τριπτορελίνης στη συνιστώμενη δοσολογία προκαλεί συνεχή υπογοναδοτροφική αμηνόρροια. Εάν συμβεί μνηστρογαμία μετά από τον πρώτο μήνα, πρέπει να μετρηθούν τα επίπεδα της οιστραδιόλης στο πλάσμα και εάν αυτά τα επίπεδα είναι κάτω από 50 pg/ml, πρέπει να αναζητηθούν πιθανές οργανικές βλάβες. Η ωοθηκική λειτουργία επανέρχεται μετά από τη διακοπή της θεραπείας και η ωορρηξία συμβαίνει περίπου 5 μήνες μετά την τελευταία ένεση. Μία μη ορμονική μέθοδος αντισύλληψης θα πρέπει να χρησιμοποιείται σε όλη τη διάρκεια της αγωγής περιλαμβανομένων και 3 μηνών μετά την τελευταία ένεση. - **Πρώιμη ήβη:** Η αρχική διέγερση των ωοθηκών στα κορίτσια, μπορεί να προκαλέσει αιμορραγία από τη μήτρα. Επιβάλλεται η ταυτοχρόνια επίσημη παρακολούθηση των ασθενών μέχρι τη διακοπή της θεραπείας. **4.5. Αλληλεπιδράσεις με άλλα φάρμακα και άλλες μορφές αλληλεπιδράσεων:** Να μη χορηγείται ταυτόχρονα με φάρμακα που προκαλούν υπερηορρακτιναιμία (μειώνουν τον αριθμό των υποδοχών της GnRH στην υπόφυση). Δεν έχει παρατηρηθεί άλλη κλινικά σημαντική αλληλεπιδράση με άλλα φαρμακευτικά προϊόντα. **4.6. Κύηση και Γαλουχία:** - **Κύηση:** Μελέτες σε πειραματόζωα δεν έδειξαν τερατογόνο επίδραση. Κατά τη διάρκεια της επιτήρησης μετά την κυκλοφορία στην αγορά και σε περιορισμένο αριθμό εγκύων γυναικών με έκθεση στην τριπτορελίνη, δεν υπήρξαν αναφορές γενετικών ανωμαλιών ή εμβρυοτοξικότητας οι οποίες να αποδίδονται στο προϊόν. Εντούτοις, επειδή ο αριθμός των ασθενών είναι πολύ μικρός για την εξαγωγή συμπερασμάτων όσον αφορά στον κίνδυνο συγγενών ανωμαλιών ή εμβρυοτοξικότητας, εάν η ασθενής καταστεί έγκυος ενώ λαμβάνει τριπτορελίνη, η θεραπεία πρέπει να διακοπεί. Μία μη ορμονική μέθοδος αντισύλληψης θα πρέπει να χρησιμοποιείται σε όλη τη διάρκεια της αγωγής περιλαμβανομένων και 1 μηνός μετά την τελευταία ένεση. - **Γαλουχία:** Η τριπτορελίνη δεν συνιστάται να χρησιμοποιείται κατά την περίοδο του θηλασμού. **4.7. Επίδραση στην ικανότητα οδήγησης και χειρισμού μηχανών:** Δεν έχουν παρατηρηθεί επιδράσεις στην ικανότητα οδήγησης και χειρισμού μηχανών. **4.8. Ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες: Εμπειρία από τις κλινικές μελέτες:** Τα στοιχεία που αναφέρονται κατωτέρω βασίζονται στην ανάλυση των αβιοχημικών δεδομένων που αναφέρθηκαν κατά τη διάρκεια κλινικών μελετών με την μνυσία και την τριμηνιαία μορφή του φαρμάκου (συνολικός πληθυσμός περίπου 2400). Η πλειοψηφία των ανεπιθύμητων ενεργειών που αναφέρθηκαν κατά τη διάρκεια των κλινικών μελετών σχετίζονται με τις φαρμακολογικές δράσεις, όπως ο υπογοναδοτροφικός υπογοναδισμός, ή η αρχική διέγερση της υπόφυσης και των γονάδων. Η συχνότητα των ανεπιθύμητων ενεργειών που αναφέρονται παρακάτω, ορίζεται με βάση την ακόλουθη αρχή: Πολύ συχνές (> 10%) - Συχνές (> 1% - < 10%) - Μη συχνές (> 0,1 - < 1%) - Σπάνιες (> 0,01 - < 0,1%) - Πολύ σπάνιες (< 0,01%). **Γενική ανοχή σε ενήλικες:** Πολύ συχνές: Ήπιες μέχρι έντονες εξάψεις και επιδράσεις οι οποίες συνήθως δεν απαιτούν διακοπή της θεραπείας. **Γενική ανοχή σε άνδρες:** Πολύ συχνές κατά την έναρξη της θεραπείας (βλ. παράγραφο 4.4 "Ειδικές προειδοποιήσεις και προφυλάξεις κατά τη χρήση"): Ενδείξεις συμπτωμάτων εκ του ουροποιητικού, οστικής νόσος μεταστατικής αιτιολογίας και συμπτώματα που σχετίζονται με συμπίεση του νωτιαίου μυελού από σπονδυλικές μεταστάσεις (πόνος οσφύος, αδυναμία, παραισθησία των κάτω άκρων), όταν τα επίπεδα τεστοστερόνης πλάσματος αυξάνονται αρχικά και παροδικά κατά την έναρξη της αγωγής. Αυτά τα συμπτώματα είναι παροδικά και συνήθως εξαφανίζονται σε μία έως δύο εβδομάδες. Συχνές κατά τη διάρκεια της θεραπείας: Ελάττωμη σεξουαλική επιθυμία και ανικανότητα στήσης που σχετίζονται με τη μείωση των επιπέδων οιστραδιόλης πλάσματος. Αυτά τα συμπτώματα είναι παροδικά και συνήθως εξαφανίζονται σε μία έως δύο εβδομάδες. - Αιμορραγία εκ του γεννητικού συστήματος περιλαμβανόμενα μνηστρογαμία, μνηστρογαμία, μπορεί να συμβεί κατά τον μήνα που ακολουθεί την πρώτη ένεση. Πολύ συχνές κατά τη διάρκεια της αγωγής: Κατά τη διάρκεια των κλινικών μελετών στην ενδομητρίωση οι ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες έδειξαν μια γενική μορφή υποοιστρογονικών συμπτωμάτων που σχετίζονται με την καταστολή της υπόφυσης και των ωοθηκών, όπως διαταραχές ύπνου, κεφαλαλγία, διαταραχές θυμικού, κολπική ήρπηση, δυσπαρεύνια και μειωμένη σεξουαλική επιθυμία. Πολύ συχνές κατά τη διάρκεια της αγωγής με την μνυσία μορφή του φαρμάκου: πόνος στήθους, μυϊκές κράμπες, αρθραλγία, αύξηση βάρους, ναυτία, κοιλιακός πόνος / δυσφορία, εξασθένιση. **Γενική ανοχή σε παιδιά:** Αντιδράσεις υπερευαίσθη-

σίας, κεφαλαλγία, εξάψεις, και αιμορραγία εκ του γεννητικού συστήματος στα κορίτσια (βλ. παράγραφο 4.4 "Ειδικές προειδοποιήσεις και προφυλάξεις κατά τη χρήση"). **Τοπική ανοχή:** Συχνές: πόνος, ερυθρότητα και φλεγμονή στο σημείο της ένεσης. **Εμπειρία μετά την κυκλοφορία του προϊόντος: Σε ενήλικες:** Κατά τη διάρκεια της επιτήρησης μετά την κυκλοφορία του προϊόντος έχουν αναφερθεί επιπλέον πολύ σπάνιες ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες. Αυτές ταξινομούνται κατά κατηγορία οργάνων σώματος και κατά μειούμενη συχνότητα εμφάνισης. - Ενδοκρινικές διαταραχές: γυναικομαστία. - Ψυχιατρικές διαταραχές: κατάθλιψη, αλλαγές της προσωπικότητας. - Διαταραχές νευρικού συστήματος: ζάλη, παραισθησία σε άκρες. - Οφθαλμικές διαταραχές: θολή όραση ή διαταραχές της όρασης. - Διαταραχές ώτων και λαβυρίνθου: ίλιγγος που μερικές φορές σχετίζεται με γαστρεντερικά συμπτώματα. - Διαταραχές αναπνευστικές, θώρακος και μεσοθωρακίου: δύσπνοια. - Γαστρεντερικές διαταραχές: διάρροια, έμετος. - Διαταραχές δέρματος και υποδόριου ιστού: αντιδράσεις υπερευαίσθησης που περιλαμβάνουν κνισμό, κνίδωση, εξάνθημα, αγγειοοίδημα (βλ. παράγραφο 4.3 "Αντενδείξεις"). - Διαταραχές μυοσκελετικές, οστικές και συνδετικού ιστού: αρθραλγία, μυαλγία και μυϊκή αδυναμία σε άνδρες και γυναίκες, επεισοδια οστικού πόνου σε άνδρες κατά τη διάρκεια της αγωγής (βλ. επίσης παράγραφο 4.4 "Ειδικές προειδοποιήσεις και προφυλάξεις κατά τη χρήση", σχετικά με τον κίνδυνο οστεοπόρωσης). - Διαταραχές του αναπαραγωγικού συστήματος και μαστού: σε γυναίκες, παρατεταμένες διαταραχές περιόδου όπως αμηνόρροια, μνηστρογαμία και μνηστρογαμία μετά την αγωγή. Βλ. σχετικά με την ενδομητρίωση και τα ινομυώματα μήτρας στην παράγραφο 4.4 "Ειδικές προειδοποιήσεις και προφυλάξεις κατά τη χρήση". - Γενικές διαταραχές και καταστάσεις σημείου χορήγησης: πυρεξία, κακουχία. - Εξετάσεις: αυξημένη αρτηριακή πίεση. **Σε παιδιά:** Σύμφωνα με την συσσωρευμένη εμπειρία ασφαλείας της τριπτορελίνης σε παιδιά που έλαβαν αγωγή για την πρώιμη ήβη, οι ακόλουθες σπάνιες ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες έχουν αναφερθεί επιπλέον κατά την επιτήρηση μετά την κυκλοφορία του προϊόντος: αντιδράσεις υπερευαίσθησης, κεφαλαλγία, αύξηση βάρους, αυξημένη αρτηριακή πίεση, επεισοδια θολής ή διαταραχόμενης όρασης, δυσφορία εκ του γαστρεντερικού με κοιλιακό πόνο και έμετο, επιταχία, κακουχία, μυαλγία, συναισθηματική αστάθεια, νευρικότητα. **4.9. Υπερδοσολογία:** Δεν έχουν αναφερθεί ανεπιθύμητες αντιδράσεις σφειδόμενες σε υπερδοσολογία. Σε περίπτωση υπερδοσολογίας, ενδείκνυται συμπτωματική αντιμετώπιση. **5. ΦΑΡΜΑΚΟΛΟΓΙΚΕΣ ΙΔΙΟΤΗΤΕΣ: 5.1. Φαρμακοδυναμικές ιδιότητες: ΑΝΑΛΟΓΟ ΤΗΣ ΕΚΛΥΤΙΚΗΣ ΟΡΜΟΝΗΣ ΤΩΝ ΓΟΝΑΔΟΤΡΟΦΙΝΩΝ. Κωδικός ATC: L02AE04 (αντινεοπλαστικό και αναστολέροπλαστικό).** Η τριπτορελίνη είναι συνθετικό δεκαπεπτιδικό ναίει ανάλογο της φυσικής εκλυτικής ορμόνης των γοναδοτροπινών (γοναδορελίνη, GnRH, LH-RH). Μελέτες σε ζώα και στον άνθρωπο έχουν δείξει ότι η συνεχής χορήγηση τριπτορελίνης, μετά από μία αρχική διέγερση, αναστέλλει την έκκριση των γοναδοτροπινών με επακόλουθη καταστολή της λειτουργίας των όρχων και της ωοθήκης. Η πρώτη ένεση του Arvekar 11,25 mg διεισφέρει την απελευθέρωση των υποφυσιακών γοναδοτρόφων LH και FSH προκαλώντας μία παροδική αύξηση των επιπέδων τεστοστερόνης στους άνδρες και οιστραδιόλης στις γυναίκες (flare-up). Η παρατεταμένη χορήγηση οδηγεί, περίπου 20 ημέρες μετά και καθ' όλη τη διάρκεια απελευθέρωσης της δραστηκότητας ορμόνης, σε μείωση των επιπέδων LH και FSH και κατά συνέπεια σε πτώση της τεστοστερόνης ή οιστραδιόλης πλάσματος σε επίπεδα ευνουχισμού. Μια παροδική αύξηση των ορίων φωσφατασών μπορεί να παρατηρηθεί σε άνδρες κατά την έναρξη της θεραπείας. Στην πρώιμη ήβη η αναστολή της υποφυσιακής γοναδοτροφικής υπερδραστηριότητας και στα δύο φύλα, οδηγεί στην καταστολή της αιχμής της LH μετά από διεγερτική δοκιμασία LHRH και συνεπώς καταστολή της έκκρισης οιστραδιόλης ή τεστοστερόνης και σε βελτίωση του λόγου ύψους / οστική ηλικία και του τελικού ύψους. **5.2. Φαρμακοκινητικές ιδιότητες:** Μετά την ενδομυϊκή ένεση του Arvekar 11,25mg στους ασθενείς με καρκίνο του προστάτη, παρατηρείται μία μέγιστη τιμή της τριπτορελίνης πλάσματος περίπου 3 ώρες μετά την ένεση. Μετά από μία φάση ελάττωσης που συνεχίζεται κατά τη διάρκεια του πρώτου μήνα, τα επίπεδα τριπτορελίνης στην κυκλοφορία παραμένουν σταθερά μέχρι την ημέρα 90. Το επίπεδο τεστοστερόνης στο αίμα φθάνει στο όριο ευνουχισμού περίπου 20 ημέρες μετά την ένεση και παραμένει σημαντικά κάτω από αυτό το όριο καθ' όλη τη διάρκεια απελευθέρωσης της δραστηκότητας αντιστοιχώντας με τη φάση σταθεροποιημένων συγκεντρώσεων στο πλάσμα. **5.3. Προκλινικά στοιχεία για την ασφάλεια:** Τα μόνα προκλινικά ευρήματα ήταν αυτά που σχετίζονταν με την αναμενόμενη φαρμακολογική δράση της τριπτορελίνης, δηλαδή την καταστολή του υποθαλαμο-υποφυσιακού –γοναδικού άξονα, με το επακόλουθο αποτέλεσμα στα επίπεδα των ορμονών του φύλου και στον αναπαραγωγικό άξονα. Αυτά τα ευρήματα ήταν σε μεγάλο βαθμό αναστρέψιμα κατά την περίοδο ανάκαμψης. Η τριπτορελίνη δεν έχει δείξει να είναι τοξική στο γενετικό υλικό στην κλασική σειρά δοκιμασιών μεταλλάξεων. Η εμφάνιση αδυναμιακών οργάνων στην υπόφυση ορούραίων που παρατηρήθηκε με το Arvekar στα πλαίσια μακροχρόνιων μελετών καρκινογένεσης, είναι μία ειδική δράση των αναλόγων της γοναδορελίνης σε αυτό το είδος ζώων, που προκαλείται μέσω ενός ορμονικού μηχανισμού και δεν έχει παρατηρηθεί στον ποντικό ούτε έχει περιγραφεί στον άνθρωπο. Η απορρόφηση του Arvekar 11,25mg ολοκληρώνεται σε 120 ημέρες. **6. ΦΑΡΜΑΚΕΥΤΙΚΑ ΣΤΟΙΧΕΙΑ: 6.1. Κατάλογος με τα έκδοχα:** Κόνις: Polymeric dl-lactide glycolide q.s.p., Mannitol, Carmellose sodium, Polysorbate 80, Nitrogen. Διαλύτες: Mannitol, γάλακτος εναιώρημα. **6.2. Ασυμβατότητες:** Δεν αναφέρονται. **6.3. Διάρκεια ζωής:** 36 μήνες. **6.4. Ιδιαίτερες προφυλάξεις κατά την φύλαξη του προϊόντος:** Φύλαξη σε θερμοκρασία το ανώτερο μέχρι 25° C. Μετά την ανασύσταση να χρησιμοποιείται αμέσως. **6.5. Φύση και συστατικά του περιέκτη:** - Γυάλινο φιαλίδιο 4ml με ελαστομερές πόμα και κάλυμμα αλουμινίου, που περιέχει το στερεό υλοφίοιο. - Γυάλινη φύσιγγα 2ml που περιέχει τον υγρό διαλύτη για ανασύσταση. - 1 αποστερωμένη σύριγγα από πολυπροπυλένιο (3 ml). - 2 αποστερωμένες βελόνες 0.9mm. **6.6. Οδηγίες χρήσης/χειρισμού:** Το στερεό υλοφίοιο θα πρέπει να ανασυσταθεί με τον υγρό διαλύτη αμέσως πριν την ένεση. Δεν πρέπει να αναμειγνύεται με άλλα φάρμακα. **1 – ΠΡΟΕΤΟΙΜΑΣΙΑ ΑΣΘΕΝΟΥΣ:** -Ο ασθενής ζηπιλώνει και αποπλημνίζεται η περιοχή του γυθού όπου θα γίνει η ένεση. **2 – ΠΡΟΕΤΟΙΜΑΣΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΕΝΕΣΗΣ:** - Η παρουσία φυσαλίδων στην επιφάνεια του στερεού υλοφίου είναι φυσιολογική. -Σπάστε το λάιμο της φύσιγγας του διαλύτη. -Αναρροφήστε όλο τον διαλύτη στη σύριγγα με την βελόνα. -Αφαιρέστε το πρόσιο κάλυμμα από το φιαλίδιο του στερεού υλοφίου. -Μεταφέρετε τον διαλύτη από τη σύριγγα στο φιαλίδιο που περιέχει το στερεό υλοφίοιο. -Τραβήξτε τη σύριγγα με τη βελόνα πάνω από την επιφάνεια του υγρού αλά μιν την αφαιρέστε τελείως από το φιαλίδιο. -Ανακινήστε το φιαλίδιο χωρίς να το αναστρέψετε έως ότου σχηματιστεί ένα ομοιογενές εναιώρημα. -Ελέγξτε για την απουσία συσσωματωμάτων πριν αναρροφήσετε το εναιώρημα (σε περίπτωση παρουσίας συσσωματωμάτων, συνεχίστε την ανακίνηση μέχρι να επιτευχθεί πλήρης ομοιογένεση). -Αναρροφήστε με τη σύριγγα όλο το εναιώρημα χωρίς να αναστρέψετε το φιαλίδιο. -Αφαιρέστε από τη σύριγγα τον βελόνα που χρησιμοποιήσατε για την ανασύσταση. Προσαρμόστε στη σύριγγα την άλλη βελόνα (βέλωση σφικτά) κρατώντας τη μόνο από το χρωματιστό τμήμα. -Αφαιρέστε τον αέρα από τη σύριγγα. **3 – ΕΝΕΣΗ:** - Η ένεση πρέπει να γίνει χωρίς καθυστέρηση. Κάνετε την ένεση στον γυθούτιο μμ. **4 – ΜΕΤΑ ΤΗ ΧΡΗΣΗ:** -Απορρίψτε τις βελόνες σε κατάλληλο δοχείο. Κατά την διάρκεια των παραπάνω ενεργειών, κάθε απόβλητο προϊόντος μεγαλύτερο από αυτό που φυσιολογικά παραμένει στο φιαλίδιο και τη σύριγγα, πρέπει να λαμβάνεται υπόψη από τον θεράποντα γιατρό. **6.7. Ονομασία και μόνιμη έδρα του Υπευθύνου Κυκλοφορίας:** IPSEN ΕΠΕ, Αγ. Δημητρίου 63, Αίλιου 174/06, Αθήνα. **7. ΑΡΙΘΜΟΣ ΔΕΛΤΑΙΣ ΚΥΚΛΟΦΟΡΙΑΣ:** 878454/04-11-2009. **8. ΗΜΕΡΟΜΗΝΙΑ ΠΡΩΤΗΣ ΔΕΛΤΑΙΣ:** 13-6-2000. **9. ΗΜΕΡΟΜΗΝΙΑ ΤΗΣ (ΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ) ΑΝΑΘΕΩΡΗΣΗΣ ΤΟΥ ΚΕΙΜΕΝΟΥ:** 4-11-2009.

Βοηθήστε να γίνουν τα φάρμακα πιο ασφαλή και Αναφέρετε ΟΛΕΣ τις ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες για ΟΛΑ τα φάρμακα Συμπληρώνοντας την «ΚΙΤΡΙΝΗ ΚΑΡΤΑ»

N. T. 155,14€ A. T. 215,49€ Δ.Τ.Φ. 14/12/2015



# Αξιοπιστία που εμπιστεύεσαι σε όλη τη διαδρομή θεραπείας του καρκίνου του προστάτη



Η Περιήληψη των Χαρακτηριστικών του Προϊόντος βρίσκεται στην επόμενη σελίδα.



IPSEN ΕΠΕ Αγίου Δημητρίου 63 - 174 56 Άλιμος - Αθήνα  
Τηλ.: 210 9843324 - 210 9858930, Fax: 210 9887911 - E-mail: [ipsenepe@ipsen.com](mailto:ipsenepe@ipsen.com) - <http://www.ipsen.com>

C.A. PAPAELLINAS LTD, Λεωφόρος Γιάννου Κρασιώτη 179, 2235 Λάτσια, Λευκωσία, Κύπρος,  
Τηλ.: +357 22741741, Φαξ: +357 22482155

**Έγκριση ΕΟΦ σημαίνει**  
αποτελεσματικότητα & ασφάλεια  
για **όλα τα φάρμακα,**  
πρωτότυπα & γενόσημα



### **Ο ΕΟΦ εγγυάται:**

- Όλα τα φάρμακα με άδεια κυκλοφορίας ΕΟΦ, πρωτότυπα & γενόσημα, είναι ασφαλή, αποτελεσματικά και ίδιας θεραπευτικής αξίας.
- Η άδεια κυκλοφορίας όλων των φαρμάκων δίνεται με βάση την Ευρωπαϊκή Νομοθεσία.
- Η ποιότητα, η ασφάλεια και η αποτελεσματικότητα των φαρμάκων διασφαλίζεται με συνεχείς ελέγχους μετά την άδεια.

Ο ΕΟΦ στηρίζει τον γιατρό. Στηρίξτε κι εσείς την εκστρατεία του ΕΟΦ.

Εμπιστευθείτε τα γενόσημα, χορηγήστε στους ασθενείς σας φάρμακα με χαμηλό κόστος, όπου μπορείτε, και εξοικονομήστε πόρους για να μπορείτε να χορηγείτε καινοτόμα (υψηλού κόστους) φάρμακα, όπου είναι απαραίτητα.

ΝΕΑ ΓΕΝΙΑ  
ΚΑΘΗΤΗΡΩΝ



# VaPro

Υδρόφιλος Καθετήρας για  
Διαλείποντες Καθετηριασμούς

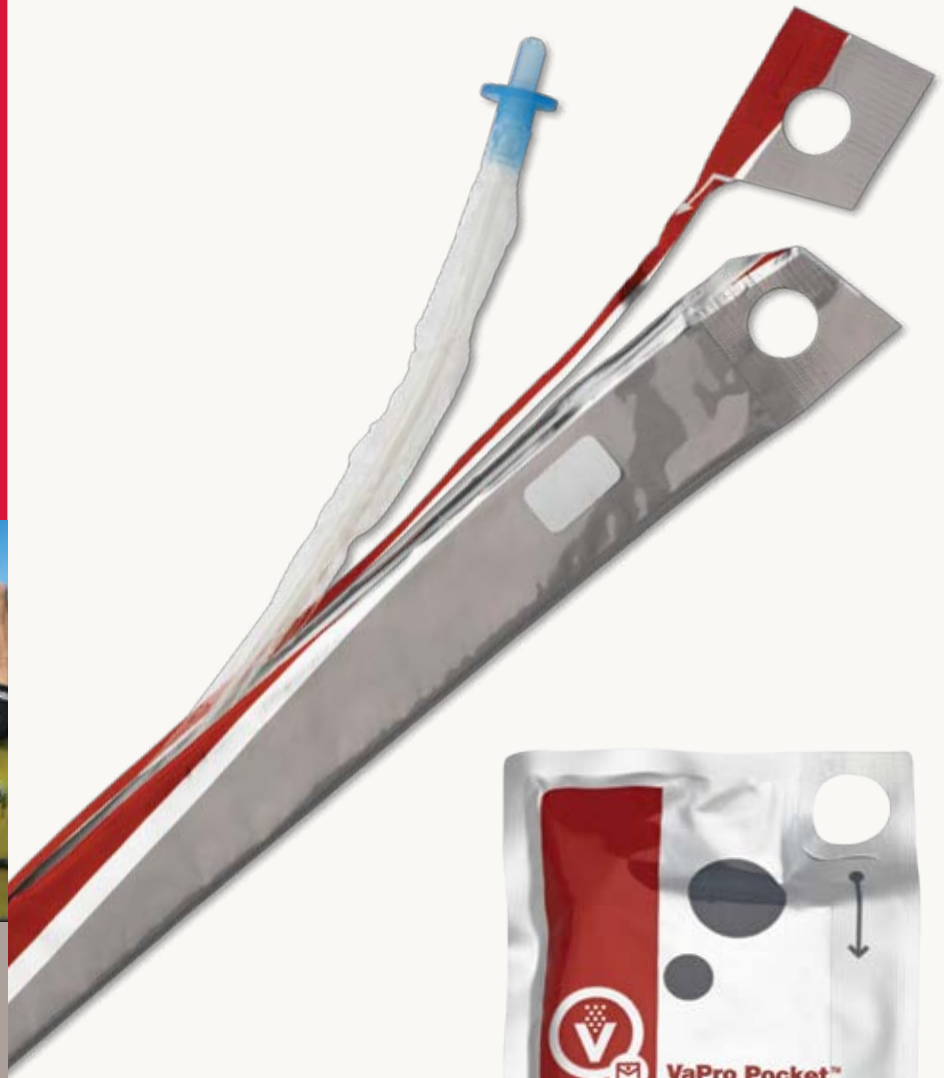
## Δώστε τους τον έλεγχο

Οι υδρόφιλοι καθετήρες **VaPro** με προστατευτικό εισαγωγέα και κάλυμμα για χωρίς επαφή εισαγωγή δίνουν τον έλεγχο στους ασθενείς σας και τους βοηθούν να παραμείνουν ανεξάρτητοι.



Οι καθετήρες **VaPro** προσφέρουν ευκολία στην εκπαίδευση, την εκμάθηση και τη χρήση.

Ο προστατευτικός εισαγωγέας και το κάλυμμα που επιτρέπει τη χωρίς επαφή εισαγωγή βοηθούν στη διατήρηση των μικροοργανισμών μακριά από τον καθετήρα ώστε οι χρήστες να αισθάνονται άνετα με την καθαριότητα οπουδήποτε κι αν βρίσκονται.



Διαθέσιμος ανδρικός:



### VaPro pocket

Υδρόφιλος Καθετήρας για  
Διαλείποντες Καθετηριασμούς



CE Hollister και λογότυπο, VaPro και VaPro Pocket είναι εμπορικά σήματα της Hollister Incorporated © 2016 Hollister Incorporated



## Hollister

Hollister Ελλάς Α.Ε.

Λεωφόρος Κηφισίας 36, 15125 Μαρούσι  
Τηλ.: 210.65.61.550 Fax: 210.65.43.632  
[www.hollister.gr](http://www.hollister.gr)

## Continence Care

Πρώτα οι άνθρωποι



# Hellenic Urology

Quarterly Publication by  
the Hellenic Urological Association

**EDITOR**

Frank Sofras  
President of H.U.A.

**EDITORIAL BOARD****EDITOR - IN - CHIEF**

Ioannis Varkarakis

**ASSISTANT EDITOR - IN - CHIEF**

Andreas Skolarikos

**ASSOCIATE EDITORS**

Nikolaos Ferakis, Athanasios Papatsoris, Konstantinos Stamatou

**ASSISTANT EDITORS**

Ioannis Adamakis, Stilianos Giannakopoulos, Iraklis Mitsogiannis

**MEMBERS**

Konstantinos Bouropoulos, Panagiotis Kallidonis, Grigorios Raptidis

**INTERNATIONAL EDITORIAL BOARD**

Claud Abbou (France), Miodrag Acimovic (Serbia), Mohamad Allaf (USA), Dean Assimos (USA), Dragoslav Basic (Serbia), Piotr Chlostka (Poland), Ali Erol (Turkey), Yasser Farahat (UAE), Petrisor Geavlete (Romania), Oliver Hakenberg (Germany), Misop Han (USA), Andras Hoznek (Hungary), Michael Gross (Israel), Thomas Knoll (Germany), Raymond Leveille (USA), Vito Pansadoro (Italy), Ilya Saltirov (Bulgaria), Wolfgang Schultze - Seeman (Germany), Ahmed Shokeir (Egypt), Aleksandar Vuksanovic (Serbia)

**Distributed at no charge to all members of the Hellenic Urological Association**

**Indexed in latrotek and the National Documentation Centre**

**ISSN 2241 - 9136**

**HELLENIC UROLOGY OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE H.U.A.**

Address: 23, Ravine St., 115 21 Athens, Greece

Tel.: +30 210 7223 126, Tel. - Fax: +30 210 7245 959, E - mail: hua@huanet.gr, www.huanet.gr

**Published by**

ZITA MEDICAL MANAGEMENT S.A., 1st klm Peanias - Markopoulou Avenue, Peania, Attica, Greece, P.O. BOX 155, 190 02,  
Tel.: +30 211 1001 777, Fax: +30 211 1001779, E - mail: info@zita-management.com

Translator: ΤΣΕΡΤΣΙΔΗΣ ΕΛΕΥΘ. & ΣΙΑ Ο.Ε.



ADV/XTA/01.2016

Βοηθήστε να γίνουν τα φάρμακα πιο ασφαλή και  
Αναφέρετε  
ΟΛΕΣ τις ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες για ΟΛΑ τα φάρμακα  
Συμμελώνοντας την «ΚΙΤΡΙΝΗ ΚΑΡΤΑ»

**ΦΑΡΜΑΚΕΥΤΙΚΟ ΠΡΟΪΟΝ ΓΙΑ ΤΟ ΟΠΟΙΟ ΑΠΑΙΤΕΙΤΑΙ ΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΣΥΝΤΑΓΗ**

Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες συμβουλευτείτε την ΠΧΠ ΧΤΑΝΔΙ  
που διατίθεται από τον ΚΑΚ

Νοσοκομειακή τιμή (Κουτί x 112 μαλακά καψάκια - 40 mg /CAP): €2534,08



Astellas Pharmaceuticals A. E. B. E.  
Θουκυδίδου 1, 145 65 Αγ. Στέφανος Αττικής, Τηλ. 210 8189 900, Fax 210 8189 960  
www.astellas.gr



**Xtandi™**  
enzalutamide

Treat what really matters in mCRPC





# Contents

<b>Instructions to authors</b>	18 - 21
<b>Editors' responsibilities</b>	22 - 23

## Reviews

<b>The role of postchemotherapeutic lymphadenectomy in the treatment of testicular germ cell tumors</b> <i>Nebojsa Bojanic</i>	26 - 33
<b>High risk prognostic factors after radical prostatectomy</b> <i>Stefanos Adamis, Ioannis Varkarakis</i>	34 - 43

## Original Articles

<b>PSA measurement in a self - selected population</b> <i>Dionissios Mitropoulos, Iraklis Poulas, Theodoros Anagnostou, Evagelia Kouskouni, Panagiotis Apostolopoulos, Georgios Vidakis</i>	44 - 49
<b>Management of anastomotic strictures after radical retropubic prostatectomy</b> <i>Nikolaos Kostakopoulos, Vassilios Argiropoulos, Panagiotis Tekerlekis, Athanasios Kostakopoulos</i>	50 - 53
<b>Evaluation of two novel urodynamic parameters in the diagnosis of female obstructive voiding</b> <i>Kostas Vaios Mytilekas, Eleni Ioannidou, Marina Kalaitzi, Evangelos Ioannidis, Apostolos Apostolidis</i>	54 - 60

## Case Reports

<b>Spontaneous abscess of the corpus cavernosum</b> <i>Georgios Zervopoulos, Konstantinos Bouropoulos, Athanasios Argyropoulos, Iraklis Poulas</i>	61 - 63
<b>Combined minimal invasive methods for renal angiomyolipomas treatment</b> <i>Konstantinos N. Stamatiou, Hippocrates Moschouris</i>	64 - 68



# Instructions to Authors

**H**ellenic Urology” is the official scientific journal of the Hellenic Urological Association. Its main objective is to publish original articles, reviews and case reports on diseases of the genitourinary system. The journal “Hellenic Urology” is also concerned in the continuous education of the Urologists and aims at promoting the science of Urology. The journal publishes papers, which concern clinical research and scientific achievements. It also welcomes clinical investigations as well as basic and applied laboratory research; new data and recent developments of urological interest are also welcomed. Papers published in another journal are not accepted.

## Submission of Papers

**1. General Information:** The official language of “Hellenic Urology” is English. Authors whose native language is not English will have their manuscripts proofread by a professional copyeditor offered by the editorial team. The authors are allowed to submit their manuscript into Greek and translation will be provided.

All the authors are jointly responsible for the contents of the paper and sign together the Authorship Responsibility, Financial Disclosure and Acknowledgment form. The list of authors should not exceed six (6) otherwise the participation of those exceeding the above numbers should be justified accordingly. In case of reports, the authors should not exceed four (4). In review articles the authors should not exceed the number of two. The following should be observed in the case of clinical studies:

- a) The authors should state that the research was conducted according to the principles as have set forth by the Helsinki Declaration of 1975.
- b) In the Studies that involve human subjects, a statement - approval from the appropriate human ethics committees should be obtained.

c) A statement - approval of the competent scientific committee of the centre in which the research work was carried out, pertaining to the protocol of the perspective studies, should be included.

In the case of the experimental studies on animals a statement should be made that the paper has adhered to the international guidelines for research involving animals, which has been recommended by the WHO, stating that “all research on animals was conducted in accordance with guidelines tendered by international law”.

**2. Copyright Transfer:** Papers published in Hellenic Urology constitute copyright ownership of the manuscript to the Hellenic Urological Association (HUA). Thus any reproduction and/or copying of said manuscript is allowed only after consent of the Editorial Board of the Journal.

## 3. Procedure:

- The corresponding author is informed for receipt of the manuscript and number of registration. The manuscripts are first checked whether they have been written and submitted according to the instructions of the journal (instructions to authors). Manuscripts which do not meet the requirements of correct submission are returned to the corresponding author with instructions for due corrections. The manuscript is double - blind checked by special consultants/reviewers of the journal.
- The revised manuscript with an accompanying letter signed by the corresponding author, in which he declares that all corrections have been done.

The final decision for acceptance of the manuscript lies on the Editorial Board that decides for approval, or return of manuscript for supplementary information, decision for re - approval or to reject the manuscript. As soon as the paper is accepted and has been allotted

final publication, a proof is dispatched to the authors for final checking.

### Article types

- **Reviews** - maximum 4,000 words, 50 references, 6 tables and 10 figures, Abstract 300 words
- **Original Articles** - maximum 3,000 words, 30 references, 6 tables and 10 figures, Abstract 200 words
- **Case Reports** - maximum 1,500 words, 10 references and 6 figures, Abstract 100 words
- **Letter to the editor** - maximum 600 words, 6 references, 1 table and 1 figure

All article types should be accompanied by an abstract in Greek. For authors whose native language is not Greek, a Greek translation will be provided by the Editorial Board.

### Article structure

**Subdivision:** Divide your article into clearly defined sections. Any subsection may be given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line.

**Introduction:** State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results.

**Material and methods:** Provide sufficient detail to allow the work to be reproduced. Methods already published should be indicated by a reference: only relevant modifications should be described. Statistical methods should be included in Material and Methods section.

**Results:** Results should be clear and concise.

**Discussion:** This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature.

**Conclusions:** The main conclusions of the study may be presented in a short conclusions section, which may stand alone or form a subsection of a Discussion section.

### Title page information

■ **Title:** Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information - retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible. Author names and affiliations Where the family name may be ambiguous (e.g., a double name), please indicate this clearly. Present the authors' affiliation addresses (where the actual affiliations with a lower - case superscript letter immediately after the author's name and in front of the appropriate address. Provide the full postal address of each affiliation, including the country name and, if available, the e - mail address of each author.

■ **Corresponding author:** Clearly indicate who will handle correspondence at all stages of refereeing and publication. Ensure that phone numbers (with country and area code) are provided in addition to the e - mail address and the complete postal address. Contact details must be kept up to date by the corresponding author.

### Summary

A concise and factual abstract is required. It should state briefly the purpose of the research, the principal results and major conclusions. An abstract is often presented separately from the article, so it must be able to stand alone. For this reason, references should be avoided, but if essential, then cite the author(s) and year(s). Also, non - standard or uncommon abbreviations should be avoided, but if essential they must be defined at their first mention in the abstract. Abstracts should be structured as to include items of Objectives, Methods, Results and Conclusions.

### Keywords

Immediately after the abstract, provide a maximum of 6 keywords, using American spelling and avoiding general and plural terms and multiple concepts (avoid, for example, 'and', 'of'). Be sparing with abbreviations:



# Instructions to Authors

only abbreviations firmly established in the field may be eligible. These keywords will be used for indexing purposes.

## Abbreviations

In the text, abbreviation should be detailed at their first mention. Ensure their consistency throughout the article.

## Acknowledgements

Collate acknowledgements in a separate section at the end of the article before the references. List here those individuals who provided assistance during the research.

## Math formulae

Present simple formulae in the line of normal text where possible and use the solidus (/) instead of a horizontal line for small fractional terms, e.g., X/Y. In principle, variables are to be presented in italics. Powers of e are often more conveniently denoted by exp. Number consecutively any equations that have to be displayed separately from the text (if referred to explicitly in the text).

## Footnotes

Footnotes should be used sparingly. Number them consecutively throughout the article, using superscript Arabic numbers. Many word processors build footnotes into the text, and this feature may be used. Should this not be the case, indicate the position of footnotes in the text and present the footnotes themselves separately at the end of the article. Do not include footnotes in the reference list.

## Table footnotes

Indicate each footnote in a table with a superscript lowercase letter.

## Artwork

**Image manipulation:** Whilst it is accepted that authors sometimes need to manipulate images for clarity, manipulation for purposes of deception or fraud will be seen as scientific ethical abuse and will be dealt with accordingly. For graphical images, this journal is applying the following policy: no specific feature within an image may be enhanced, obscured, moved, removed, or introduced. Adjustments of brightness, contrast, or color balance are acceptable if and as long as they do not obscure or eliminate any information present in the original.

## Electronic artwork

### General points:

- Make sure you use uniform lettering and sizing of your original artwork.
- Embed the used fonts if the application provides that option.
- Aim to use the following fonts in your illustrations: Times New Roman, 12.
- Number the illustrations according to their sequence in the text.
- Use a logical naming convention for your artwork files.
- Provide captions to illustrations separately.
- Size the illustrations close to the desired dimensions of the printed version.
- Submit each illustration as a separate file.

**Formats:** If your electronic artwork is created in a Microsoft Office application (Word, PowerPoint, Excel) then please supply 'as is' in the native document format. Regardless of the application used other than Microsoft Office, when your electronic artwork is finalized, please 'Save as' or convert the images to one of the following formats (note the resolution requirements for line drawings, halftones, and line/halftone combinations given below): PDF or JPEG. Keep to a



minimum of 300 dpi Vector drawings, embed all used fonts.

**Please do not:**

- Supply files that are optimized for screen use (e.g., GIF, BMP, PICT, WPG); these typically have a low number of pixels and limited set of colors;
- Supply files that are too low in resolution;
- Submit graphics that are disproportionately large for the content.

**Figure legends:** Ensure that each illustration has a legend. Supply legends separately, not attached to the figure. A legend should comprise a brief title (not on the figure itself) and a description of the illustration. Keep text in the illustrations themselves to a minimum but explain all symbols and abbreviations used. Legends should be sent separately.

**Tables**

Number tables consecutively in accordance with their appearance in the text. Place footnotes to tables above the table body and indicate them with superscript lowercase letters. Avoid vertical rules. Be sparing in the use of tables and ensure that the data presented in tables do not duplicate results described elsewhere in the article.

**References**

**Citation in text:** Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list. Any references cited in the abstract must be given in full. Unpublished results and personal communications are not recommended in the reference list, but may be mentioned in the text. If these references are included in the reference list they should follow the standard reference style of the journal and should include a substitution of the publication date with either 'Unpublished results' or 'Personal communication'. Citation of a reference as 'inpress' implies that the item has been accepted for publication.

**Web references:** As a minimum, the full URL should be given and the date when the reference was last accessed. Any further information, if known (DOI, author names, dates, reference to a source publication, etc.), should also be given. Web references can be listed separately (e.g., after the reference list) under a different heading if desired, or can be included in the reference list.

**Reference style**

**Text:** Indicate references by number(s) in square brackets in line with the text. The actual authors can be referred to, but the reference number(s) must always be given. However, for more than one author, only the first should be listed followed by „et al.“.

**List:** Number the references (numbers in square brackets) in the list in the order in which they appear in the text.

**Examples:**

**Reference to a journal publication:**

1. Van der Geer J, Hanraads JAJ, Lupton RA. The art of writing a scientific article. *J Sci Commun* 2000;163:51 - 9.


**Reference to a book:**

2. Strunk Jr W, White EB. *The elements of style*. 3rd ed. New York: Macmillan; 1979.

**Reference to a chapter in an edited book:**

3. Mettam GR, Adams LB. How to prepare an electronic version of your article. In: Jones BS, Smith RZ, editors. *Introduction to the electronic age*, New York: E - Publishing Inc; 1999, p. 281 - 304.

Note shortened form for last page number. e.g., 51 - 9, and that for more than 6 authors the first 6 should be listed followed by „et al.“

For further details you are referred to „Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts submitted to Biomedical Journals“ (*J Am Med Assoc* 1997;277:927 - 934) (see also [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform\\_requirements.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html)). 



# Editors' responsibilities

## 1. Publication decisions

The editor is responsible for deciding which of the articles submitted to the journal should be published.

The decision will be based on the paper's importance, originality and clarity, and the study's validity and its relevance to the journal's scope.

The decision is guided by the policies of the journal's editorial board. The decision is constrained by current legal requirements regarding libel, copyright infringement, and plagiarism. The decision should not be restricted by the authors' race, gender, sex, religious belief, ethnic origin, and citizenship. The editor may confer with other editors or reviewers in making this decision.

## 2. Confidentiality

The editor and any editorial staff must not disclose any information about a submitted manuscript to anyone other than the corresponding author, reviewers, potential reviewers, other editorial advisers, and the publisher, as appropriate.

## 3. Disclosure and conflicts of interest

Unpublished materials disclosed in a submitted paper will not be used either in an editor's own project or by the members of the editorial board for their own research purposes without the express written consent of the author.

## Duties of Reviewers

### 1. Contribution to Editorial Decisions

Reviewers' assists the editor in making editorial decisions and through the editorial communications with the author may also assist the author in improving the paper.

### 2. Promptness

Any selected referee who feels unable or unqualified to review the research reported in a manuscript should notify the editor and exclude himself from the review process.

### 3. Confidentiality

Any manuscripts received for review must be treated as confidential documents. They must not be shown to or discussed with others except as authorized by the editor.

### 4. Standards of Objectivity

Reviews should be conducted objectively. Personal criticism of the author is inappropriate. Referees should express their views clearly with supporting arguments.

### 5. Acknowledgement of Sources

Reviewers should identify relevant published work that has not been cited by the authors. Any statement that an observation, derivation, or argument had been previously reported should be accompanied by the relevant citation.

Reviewers should also call to the editor's attention any substantial similarity or overlap between the manuscript under consideration and any other published paper of which they have personal knowledge.

### 6. Disclosure and Conflict of Interest

Information or ideas obtained through peer review must be kept confidential and not used for personal advantage. Reviewers should not consider manuscripts in which they have conflicts of interest resulting from competitive, collaborative, or other



relationships or connections with any of the authors, companies, or institutions connected to the papers.

## **Duties of Authors**

### **1. Reporting standards**

Authors of original research papers should present accurately the work performed and provide an objective discussion of its significance.

Underlying data should be properly represented in the paper. A paper should contain sufficient detail and references to permit others to replicate the work.

### **2. Data Access and Retention**

Authors are asked to provide the raw data in connection with a paper for editorial review, and should be prepared to provide public access to such data and should in any event be prepared to retain such data for a reasonable time after publication.

### **3. Originality and Plagiarism**

The authors should ensure that they have written entirely original works, and if the authors have used the work and/or words of others that this has been appropriately cited or quoted.

### **4. Multiple, Redundant or Concurrent Publication**

Authors should not publish manuscripts describing essentially the same research in more than one journal or primary publication.

### **5. Acknowledgement of Sources**

Proper acknowledgment of the work of others must always be given. Authors should cite publications that have been influential in determining the nature of the reported work.

### **6. Authorship of the Paper**

Authorship should be limited to those who have made a significant contribution to the conception, design, execution, or interpretation of the reported study.

All those who have made significant contributions should be listed as co - authors while those who have participated in certain substantive aspects of the research should be acknowledged or listed as contributors.

The corresponding author should ensure that all appropriate co - authors are included on the paper and that all co - authors have seen and approved the final version of the paper.

### **7. Hazards and Human or Animal Subjects**


If the work involves chemicals, procedures or equipment that have any unusual hazards inherent in their use, the author must clearly identify these in the manuscript.

### **8. Disclosure and Conflicts of Interest**

All authors should disclose in their manuscript any financial or other substantive conflict of interest that might be construed to influence the results or interpretation of their manuscript.

All sources of financial support for the project should be disclosed.

### **9. Errors in published works**

When an author discovers a significant error or inaccuracy in his/her own published work, it is the author's obligation to promptly notify the journal editor or publisher and cooperate with them to correct the paper. 



## Αναζήτηση Ιατρού

Όνομα:

Ειδικότητα:

Ασθενείς

Ουρολογικές Κλινικές

Forum

ΑΡΧΙΚΗ

ΤΜΗΜΑΤΑ

ΛΗΨΗ ΓΙΑ ΜΕΛΗ

ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΣΕΙΣ - ΘΕΣΕΙΣ ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΣ

ΠΕΡΙΟΔΙΚΑ

ΧΡΗΣΙΜΟΙ ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΙ

ΕΠΙΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑ

### ΤΕΛΕΥΤΑΙΑ ΝΕΑ

Γνωμοδότηση σχετικά με την αρμοδιότητα και τις προϋποθέσεις χορήγησης άδειας λειτουργίας ιδιωτικού ιατρού

### Απάντηση του Γεν.Γραμματέα της EAU

Απάντηση του Γεν.Γραμματέα της EAU, Καθηγητού Ουρολογίας κ. Abrahamsson, σχετικά με το Προσχέδιο Νόμου που αφορά την ίδρυση νέων Επιστημονικών Εταιρειών των Ιατρικών Ειδι...

### Διαδικτυακές μεταδόσεις Συνεδριών ΕΟΕ στο NIMTS

Σας ενημερώνουμε ότι συνεχίζονται κατά τη διάρκεια των μηνιαίων συνεδριών της Εταιρείας μας στο NIMTS, οι διαδικτυακές μεταδόσεις e-learning στα Περιφέρει...

### «Εισαγωγή Κωδικοποιήσεων Ιατρικής Πληροφορίας»

Κύριοι, Με την παρούσα επιστολή θα θέλαμε να σας ενημερώσουμε για το έργο «Εισαγωγή Κωδικοποιήσεων Ιατρικής Πληροφορίας», το οποίο υλοποιείται στο πλαίσιο του Μέτρου 2.7 ...

### ΓΝΩΣΤΟΠΟΙΗΣΗ

Αγαπητοί Κύριοι Συνάδελφοι, όπως μας ενημέρωσε η Φαρμακευτική Εταιρεία AMGEN, το σκεύασμά της XGEVA (denosumab), δύναται να συνταγογραφείται κανονικά σε ασθενείς με ...

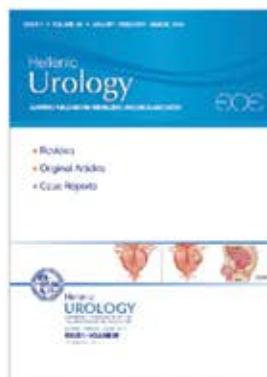
### JUNIOR CLINICAL FELLOW IN UROLOGY/GENERAL SURGERY

### ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΟΝΙΚΕΣ ΕΚΔΗΛΩΣΕΙΣ

Φεβρουάριος 2014

Κ	Δ	Τ	Τ	Π	Π	Σ
						5
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

ΕΜΦΑΝΙΣΗ ΑΝΑ ΧΡΟΝΟ



για όλα τα φάρμακα, πρωτότυπα & γενόσημα



### ΦΩΤΟΓΡΑΦΙΕΣ





Μην αφήνετε  
τις λοιμώξεις  
του ουροποιητικού  
να σας ταλαιπωρούν

# URISANOL

## Flash

### άμεση ανακούφιση



Αρ. Γνωστοποίησης ΕΟΦ: 65907/10-4-13

Π.Α.Τ. 10,70 €

**ΝΕΟ ΜΟΝΑΔΙΚΟ ΠΡΟΪΟΝ  
ΣΤΗΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΑΓΟΡΑ**

**Cranberry**

36 mg  
PAC\*

+

**Αιθέρια  
έλαια**



**ΘΕΡΑΠΕΙΑ 5 ΗΜΕΡΩΝ**



1 σκληρή  
κάψουλα



1 μαλακή  
κάψουλα

**2 ΦΟΡΕΣ ΤΗΝ ΗΜΕΡΑ**

**Αιθέρια Έλαια (ανά κάψουλα)**

Μέντα	12,9 mg
Γαρίφαλλο	4,3 mg
Θυμάρι	4,3 mg
Λεβάντα	4,3 mg
Κανέλα Κεϋλάνης	4,3 mg



**Pierre Fabre**  
FARMAKA S.A.

Λ. Μεσογείων 350,  
15341, Αγία Παρασκευή  
Τηλ. 210 7234 582, Fax. 210 7234 589

**naturactive**  
LABORATOIRES PIERRE FABRE

EXPERT SANTÉ PAR NATURE



REVIEW

# The role of postchemotherapeutic lymphadenectomy in the treatment of testicular germ cell tumors

Nebojša Bojanić

*Institute of Urology and Nephrology, Clinical Center of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia  
School of Medicine, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia*

## Abstract

**Objectives:** To review the role of postchemotherapy retroperitoneal lymph node dissection (PC - RPLND) in patients with the advanced testicular germ cell tumours (TGCT) with special attention to indication, surgical technique and oncological outcome.

**Methods:** A structured review of the literature until June 2012 using the PubMed database was carried out.

**Results:** According to current guidelines and recommendations, PC - RPLND in advanced seminomas with residual tumours would be indicated only if PET scan performed 6 - 8 weeks after chemotherapy was positive. In nonseminomatous TGCT, PC - RPLND is indicated for all residual radiographic lesions with negative or plateauing markers. Loss of antegrade ejaculation represents the most common long-term complication, which can be prevented by nerve - spar-

ing or modified template resection. The relapse rate after PC - RPLND is around 12%; however, it increases significantly to about 45% in cases with re - do RPLND and late relapses. Patients with the increasing markers should undergo salvage chemotherapy. Only selected patients with elevated markers who are thought to be chemorefractory would undergo desperation PC - RPLND if all radiographically visible lesions were completely resectable.

**Conclusion:** PC - RPLND represents a major part of the management of patients with the advanced TGCT undergoing inductive chemotherapy. Complete resection of all residual masses after primary chemotherapy results in a long - term disease - free survival of 95%. PC - RPLND requires complex surgical approach and should be performed in the experienced, tertiary referral centers only.

## Introduction

Testicle tumors are the most malignant tumors in males aged from 15 to 35 years. The largest number of tumors (95 - 98%) includes tumors of germinal epithelium, while the rest are stromal tumors (leydigeoma, sertolioma and other rare tumors). Germ cell tumors are divided by their histological characteristics in two large groups - seminomatous and nonseminomatous tum-

ors. The incidence of these tumors is different in world - they are extremely rare in Africa (0.1/100000), similar in Asia, while the incidence in the Scandinavian countries is up to 8/100000. In our country, the incidence accounts for about 3/100000. Earlier, these tumors were detected mostly in metastatic phase (in up to 60% of patients) while today the situation is quite different, meaning that almost 80% of all tumors are detected

## Corresponding author:

*Nebojša Bojanić, Clinical Center of Serbia, Institute of Urology and Nephrology, Resavska 51, 11 000 Belgrade, Serbia.  
Phone: +381 66 830 1080. E-mail: bojanicnebojsa@gmail.com*

in clinically initial stage of disease (CS - I). In the last 30 years, treatment of these patients was improved by development of effective multimodal therapy and significant success has been achieved in curing the majority of these patients, with the rate from 60% in 1970s to almost 98% at the beginning of 21st century<sup>1,2,3</sup>. Introduction of chemotherapeutic cisplatin protocols has considerably contributed to complete cure of these patients. On the other hand, detailed anatomical studies have confirmed primary sites of tumor spread to retroperitoneum. Retroperitoneal lymphadenectomy (RPLND) has become an integral part of management and one of the most important components in curative treatment of patients with the advanced stage and whose residual postchemotherapeutic metastatic tumor mass remained in retroperitoneum<sup>4,5,6</sup>. Introduction of modified plan of operative field

and nerve sparing approach produced minimal morbidity when the procedure was performed by experienced surgeon in tertiary - level centers addressing this problem. Nevertheless, RPLND is a challenging surgical technique requiring good knowledge of RP anatomy, expertise in surgical techniques of vascular and intestinal structures as well as huge experience in management of patients with testicular tumors.

Detailed histological studies have contributed to identification of patients at high risk of metastatic diseases. The percentage of embryonal cancers and lymphovascular invasion (LVI) signs in primary tumors appeared to be independent risk factors of recurrence<sup>1,2,8</sup>. CS - I patients with over 80% of embryonal cancer (EC) and present lymphovascular invasion (LVI) in histological specimen of testicular tumor will be in stage II in 88% and patients with less than 45% of EC and negative LVI in histological specimen of testicular tumor will be without metastatic disease in 91.5%. The Testicular Cancer Intergroup study has shown that EC and LVI percentage precisely predict pathological stage (PS - II) of patients in 86% of the time. These data significantly helped in choosing the method of treatment and contributed to better positioning of RPLND in treatment of these patients.

Approach to treatment of patients with postchemotherapeutic residual metastatic mass largely depends on histology of primary tumor. All patients

with NSGCTT who have postchemotherapeutic residual metastatic mass in retroperitoneum larger than 1 cm should undergo RPLND because they are at higher risk of mature teratoma finding in 40% - 45% and vital tumor in 10% - 15% of cases<sup>1,2,7,8,9,10,11,12</sup>. The patients with the finding of teratoma in tissue obtained by RPLND have disease - free survival (DSF) in 80%, while the presence of live tumor in specimen is associated with lower odds for survival<sup>13,14</sup>. In residual seminoma tumor changes in retroperitoneum, the size of

the tumor (smaller or bigger than 3 cm) and FDG - PET scan results play a crucial role in their management. In spite of the above mentioned, there have been controversies on the issue of PC - RPLND. The first question is what to do with small residual tumor growth smaller than 1 cm, and second, if there was a possibility of anticipating the histology

of residual mass, what would be the role of PET CT in decision - making for RPLND, how much this RPLND should be extensive, and finally, should RPLND be done under conditions of higher serum tumor marker (STM) level.

Although PC - RPLND is a routine procedure in the experienced medical centers, this procedure is associated with significant complications, because it is not rare (about 25% of cases) that it requires additional surgical interventions such as nephrectomy and major blood vessels surgery<sup>4,15</sup>.

### PC - RPLND in seminoma

The patients having residual mass after CHT used for the advanced seminoma would be candidates for PC - RPLND if only the growth was larger than 3 cm in diameter and had positive FDG - PET scan result. In all other cases, the residual tumor mass will not be resected, but its strict monitoring by STM determination and imaging techniques is necessary. Another indication is late recurrence of seminoma tumor in retroperitoneum.

After the applied induction CHT, vital cancer will be seen in about 12% - 30% of patients with residual mass larger than 3 cm, and in less than 10% of patients with mass smaller than 3 cm. Nevertheless, according to CHT protocols in manuals, the incidence of vital cancer in residual seminoma masses is up to 20% of the time independently from its size<sup>16</sup>.

### Key words

**testicular germ cell tumors; chemotherapy; postchemotherapeutic lymphadenectomy**



Following the recommendations that masses larger than 3 cm in diameter should be resected, there will be almost 80% of unnecessary treatment without any benefit for patients. In order to make the right choice of patients who will have benefit from PC - RPLND, the role of PET - CT in prediction of vital tumor in residual masses of seminoma tumors was analyzed prospectively. In this study, the patients with residual mass after CHT underwent PET CT and surgery or monitoring - if the growth increased, it was considered malignant, and if it was stable or decreased within 24 months, vital tumor was considered absent. PET CT sensitivity and specificity to detect vital cancer was 80% and 100%, respectively, and there were no false positive and false negative findings<sup>17,18</sup>.

In accordance with EGCCCG (European Germ - Cell Cancer Consensus Group) recommendations, upon completion of CHT or RT, residual tumor growth in seminoma need not to be resected independently from their size, but must be strictly clinically followed by imaging techniques and measurement of tumor markers. In patients with residual mass smaller than 3 cm, PET CT is optional. If PET CT scan results were negative, regular follow - up would be sufficient, but if PET CT done after 4 - 6 weeks of therapy was positive, it would be a good and accurate indicator of vital tumor in residual mass. In such case, histological confirmation by biopsy or tumor resection is required. Further treatment is based on the obtained histological findings (monitoring, surgical treatment, radiation, CHT). The patients with progression of disease are advised to have "salvage" CHT<sup>2,10</sup>.

On the other hand, surgical resection of residual seminoma is technically challenging procedure due to extensive desmoplastic reaction of residual mass and adjacent vascular and visceral structures. Retrospective studies have demonstrated high incidence of complications and need for additional surgical procedures during PC - RPLND for seminomatous tumors. Additional nephrectomies and vascular procedures (partial or complete resection of vena cava and placement of aortic prostheses) are necessary in even 38% of patients in distinction from 25% of cases of PC - RPLND patients with NSGCTT.

### **PC - RPLND in nonseminomatous germ cell testicular tumors (NSGCTT)**

In NSGCTT patients, PC - RPLND is indicated in cases

where normalization or STM plateauing is achieved and residual mass is over 1 cm<sup>2,10</sup>. In patients with small residual mass smaller than 1 cm, there would be higher risk of residual teratoma if teratoma was present in the initial histology. For this reason, these patients are also candidates for PC - RPLND, because although the residual mass is small, there is a predisposition to local growth, malignant transformation of teratoma and late recurrence. Residual mass with vital tumor inside reflects internal or external resistance to CHT, meaning that these changes would definitely progress if left in place in spite of later second - line or salvage CHT. The following indication for PC - RPLND is a recurrence with negative STM at the site of previously done RPLND, or negative residual STM or STM maintaining mass after salvage CHT. There is one additional, though rare, indication for so - called desperation PC - RPLND when there is CHT resistant tumor and potentially resectable tumor mass. If surgeon succeeded in removing the tumor in toto during surgical intervention, the probability for five - year survival would rise to 60% of the time.

In patients who had, after the initial CHT, normalization of STM values independently from the size of residual tumor in RP, the histological finding of resected residual tumor mass will be necrosis in 40% - 50%, mature teratoma in 35% - 40% and vital cancer in 10% - 15% of patients. PC - RPLND carried out after salvage CHT showed that the specimens of removed residual tumors would contain vital cancer in about 50% of the time.

The patients in good prognostic group according to IGCCCG criteria, after the complete resection of residual tumor containing less than 10% of vital cancer, have excellent odds for positive outcome of disease. If more than 10% of vital tumor was found or radicality of surgical treatment was questioned, the patients should undergo two additional CHT cycles. The patients in whom complete resection of residual tumor is not possible or only partial resection of tumor is done along with the increase of tumor markers, should receive a full dose of salvage therapy<sup>19,20</sup>.

The patients with residual mass smaller than 1 cm are also candidates for PC - RPLND because different studies have shown that up to 20% of patients have mature teratoma and 8% have vital cancer as well. Increased risk of mature teratoma was also found when teratoma was present in primary testicular histology.

There have been suggestions, if technically feasible, to resect all locations where tumor mass was initially present independently from the fact whether any tumor mass remained after the CHT. However, this approach should be the issue of serious considerations and review following the publication of three retrospective studies completed in different centers<sup>20,21,22</sup>. The group led by Kollmannsberger<sup>20</sup>, upon analysis of 276 patients who had received CHT due to initial metastatic NSGCTT tumors and responded to therapy by reduction of tumor mass to less than 1 cm, found recurrence in 6% of patients and no lethal outcome after salvage therapy within the follow-up period of 40 months on average (8 - 128). Among them, 94% of subjects were in good IGCCCG prognostic group and only 3% in moderate and poor prognostic group. In a similar study on 141 patients during 15-year follow-up, Ehrlich et al.<sup>21</sup> reported 9% of patients with recurrence and 3% of cases with lethal outcome. IGCCCG classification appeared to be the best predictor of response because the recurrence-free survival (RFS) and cancer specific survival (CSS) were 95% and 99%, respectively, for patients in good prognostic group, and 91% and 73%, respectively, for patients in moderate and poor prognostic group. However, the disease recurred in RP only in 6 of 12 patients, and accordingly, only 50% patients would benefit from PC-RPLND. Recently published study (2011) by German group for testicular cancer analysis (GTSCG) analyzed the results of 392 patients who had undergone PC-RPLND for residual masses of all sizes; there upon, definitive histopathology was compared with the size of residual tumor mass and IGCCCG risk profile. The patients with residual tumor smaller than 1 cm had vital cancer and mature teratoma in 9.4% to 21.8% ratio. This proportion has increased to 21% and 25% in patients with tumor sized 1 - 1.5 cm, and to 36% and 42% in patients with tumor bigger than 1.5 cm. IGCCCG risk profile has not appeared as an independent significant predictor of final histology in small tumor growths, and therefore, the authors concluded that all patients, irrelevant from the size of their tumors, should undergo PC-RPLND in referral tertiary centers.

### The role of diagnostic procedures

Six to eight weeks upon completion of the initial CHT, all patients should undergo CT scanning of the chest,

abdomen and small pelvis, STM determination, and lung function tests should be done in patients with higher risk of pulmonary toxicity (4 PEB cycles, age over 40, smoking, renal failure). The condition of major blood vessels should be especially examined in patients with large tumor masses in RP because the involvement of the walls of vena cava and aorta ranges from 6% to 10% of these patients. If the infiltration of the walls of large blood vessels were suspected, MRI would be the right choice for examination. If the interior vena cava (IVC) and/or aorta were involved, their resection would be required because 2/3 of patients have vital cancer or mature teratoma in tumor mass. It is usual to use grafts designed only for aorta; venous complications in case of resection without IVC graft are seen in less than 5% of the time<sup>24</sup>.

### Extensiveness of surgery

The question of surgical approach and need for the extensiveness of surgery has been raised. There are two options to approach the residual tumor - classical open surgery and laparoscopic surgery. By so far published experiences, the classical open approach has been still the method of choice, while the laparoscopic method is reserved for the centers practicing exclusively laparoscopy and in the event of small residual masses<sup>33</sup>.

PC-RPLND is a very complex surgical procedure requiring profound knowledge of surgery of vascular and intestinal structures as well as specificity in treatment of testicular tumors. In relation to the size and expansion of residual tumor mass in RP, a surgeon may modify the approach to RP space. Medial laparotomy from the processus xiphoideus to symphysis may be applied in the majority of patients with unilateral infrahilar disease, while Chevron incision may be used in suprahilar and bilateral disease. Thoracoabdominal approach is used in 10% of patients with the persistent retrocrural disease and it requires brilliant knowledge of retroperitoneal anatomy for avoiding significant surgical complications.

The extensiveness of surgery has been analyzed pretty much in literature, and the conclusion is that in some cases (tumor smaller than 5 cm) a surgeon may use so-called modified plan of operative field both for the right-side and left-side tumors, which will not interfere with the oncological treatment result, but will have a significant effect on reduction of morbidity of



operation. To what extent a modified plan of operative field may "miss" a residual tumor was shown by study of Carver and associates<sup>13</sup>. The study analyzed 532 patients who had PC - RPLND, and followed the localizations of residual tumors in relation to modified plan of operative field. Residual tumor or teratoma was found in 7% - 32% of patients depending upon how modified plan of operative field was defined. In the right - side modification, residual tumors or teratoma were found in 32% of paraortic and 23% of preaortic nodi, while in the left - side in 29% of interaortocaval, 11% of precaval and 10% of paracaval specimens. Residual disease in contralateral iliac nodi was found in 4% of both left - and right - side specimens. This study is only a confirmation that the decision on the extensiveness of surgery must be made by an urologist with great experience in treatment of testicular tumors.

### Illustration of modified plan of operative field

A special entity is teratoma "growing" syndrome. It appears in patients during the initial chemotherapy who have growing tumor mass in RP with normal or normalization of STM values. It is the question of chemoresistant teratoma. An adequate mode of treatment is a complete surgical resection in the form of complete bilateral lymphadenectomy since this teratoma is chemoresistant and no "salvage" or other chemotherapy will produce good response. Although teratoma is a benign tumor, it may cause a serious morbidity by its growth, and eventually mortality. Early recognition of this form of tumor will bring about early surgical resection of RP mass what will finally result in complete cure. If tumor resection was not complete, this tumor would recur in very high percentage (up to 83%)<sup>31</sup>.

### Abdominal MSCT - Teratoma growing syndrome

#### *Special forms of pc - rplnd*

Two forms of PC RPLND are singled out, termed as "salvage" and "desperation" PC - RPLND. They are applied in patients who, after the initial CHT, still have increased STM values independently from radiological response of the enlarged RP lymphatics, so they subsequently receive "salvage" CHT which will result in restoration of STM to normal. In these patients, the probability of the presence of vital cancer in residual mass is as high as 55% of cases in comparison with patients after the initial CHT. Probability of vital cancer will be lower if "sal-

vage" therapy is based on taxanes (14% vs 42%), while teratoma incidence is approximately the same and accounts for 30% - 35%<sup>26</sup>.

A special group includes patients with residual tumor mass without any normalization of STM values even after the "salvage" CHT. The patients, who undergo "desperation" PC - RPLND, have teratoma and necrosis in 20% - 40% and 10% - 20% of specimens, respectively. One should be aware of the fact that some conditions, which are not directly associated with tumor, may consequently manifest the persistence of STM values such as liver dysfunction (AFP), marijuana abuse and hypogonadism (hCG)<sup>27</sup>.

PC - RPLND is not recommended in patients in whom hCG level rises in spite of performed measures of treatment because their prognosis of disease is very poor.

Two - year survival of patients with vital tumor found in residual mass is 44%, and with increased AFP and hCG levels is 17%<sup>28</sup>.

#### *Complications of pc - rplnd*

In comparison with primary RPLND, PC - RPLND results in higher level of complications ranging from 7% to 30%, and mortality is around 1%. The complications after this surgical intervention are most often minor (wound infection, paralytic ileus, transient hyperamylasemia, lung atelectasis), while serious complications appear in less than 2% of cases (injuries to renovascular structures, acute renal failure, obstructive ileus, chylous ascites...). Retrograde ejaculation with consequential sterility is well known complication in patients with the complete bilateral lymphadenectomy. Tumor size, its localization and postchemotherapeutic desmoplastic reaction significantly affect the level of complications. Fortunately, advancement of surgical techniques and perioperative treatment has led to reduction of complications over time<sup>32</sup>.


In different series, a percentage of complications depended on the experience of centers where operations were performed. In a German series from Dusseldorf, a total proportion of postoperative complications was less than 12% (out of which, even 55% of patients with moderate and poor ICGCCCG risk factors, 14% in late recurrence and 10% in "redo" PC - RPLND)<sup>4,16</sup>

### Conclusion

PC - RPLND is an integral part of interdisciplinary man-

agement of patients having testicular germ cell tumors with the advanced metastatic disease upon the completion of CHT. Unfortunately, in spite of all attempts and performed studies until these days, there are no clinical parameters that may determine the histological characteristics of residual tumor mass after the end of CHT.

In patients with metastatic seminoma, PC - RPLND would be indicated only if the finding of residual

mass over 3 cm was positive upon PET CT examination done 6 - 8 weeks after therapy. In NSGCTT, PC - RPLND should be done in all patients with the remaining residual mass larger than 1 cm, and even in those with growth smaller than 1 cm, depending upon the initial histology of testicular tumor. PC - RPLND is a complex surgical procedure, which should be performed in tertiary centers with great experience in treatment of testicular tumors. 

## Περίληψη

**Σκοπός:** Η διερεύνηση του ρόλου της μεταχημειοθεραπευτικής λεμφαδενεκτομής (ΜΧΘ - ΛΕ) σε ασθενείς με προχωρημένους ορχικούς όγκους γεννητικών κυττάρων με έμφαση στις ενδείξεις, χειρουργικές τεχνικές και ογκολογικό αποτέλεσμα.

**Μέθοδος:** Μία ανασκόπηση της βιβλιογραφίας μέχρι τον Ιούνιο του 2012 από τη βάση δεδομένων του PubMed.

**Αποτέλεσμα:** Σύμφωνα με τις υπάρχουσες οδηγίες, η ΜΧΘ - ΛΕ σε προχωρημένα σεμινώματα με υπολειπόμενη μάζα ενδείκνυται μόνο σε θετικό PET scan 6-8 εβδομάδες μετά τη χημειοθεραπεία. Σε μη σεμινωματώδεις όγκους, η ΜΧΘ - ΛΕ ενδείκνυται σε όλες τις υπολειπόμενες ακτινολογικές βλάβες με αρνητικούς ή σταθερούς δείκτες. Η απώλεια της εκσπερμάτισης είναι η πιο συχνή μακρόχρονη επιπλοκή, και μπορεί να αποφευχθεί με νευροπροστατευτική ή τροποποιη-

μένη λεμφαδενεκτομή. Το ποσοστό υποτροπής μετά τη ΜΧΘ - ΛΕ είναι περίπου 12%, όμως αυξάνεται σημαντικά σε 45% σε περιπτώσεις re - do Λεμφαδενεκτομών με όψιμες υποτροπές. Ασθενείς με αυξανόμενους δείκτες πρέπει να υποβληθούν σε χημειοθεραπεία διάσωσης. Μόνο επιλεγμένοι ασθενείς με αυξημένους δείκτες που θεωρούνται χημειο - ανθεκτικοί μπορούν να υποβληθούν σε ΜΧΘ - ΛΕ, αν όλες οι ακτινολογικά εμφανείς βλάβες είναι πλήρως εξαιρέσιμες.

**Συμπέρασμα:** Η ΜΧΘ - ΛΕ αποτελεί ένα βασικό όπλο στην αντιμετώπιση ασθενών με προχωρημένους ορχικούς όγκους

γεννητικών κυττάρων μετά την εισαγωγική χημειοθεραπεία. Πλήρης εξαίρεση της υπολειπόμενης μάζας οδηγεί σε μακροχρόνια επιβίωση ελεύθερη νόσου ίση με 95%. Πρέπει να εκτελείται σε ειδικά κέντρα με εμπειρία.

### Λέξεις ευρητηριασμού


όγκοι γεννητικών  
κυττάρων,  
χημειοθεραπεία,  
μεταχημειοθεραπευτική  
λεμφαδενεκτομή

## References

1. Heidenreich A, Thuer D, Polyakov S. Postchemotherapy retroperitoneal lymph node dissection in advanced germ cell tumours of the testis. *Eur Urol* 2008; 53:260 - 74.
2. Albers P, Albrecht W, Algaba F, et al. EAU guidelines on testicular cancer: 2011 update. *Eur Urol* 2011; 60:304 - 19.
3. Williams S., McDermott D., Dock W et al. Retroperitoneal lymph node dissection in patients with high risk testicular cancer. *J Urol* 2009; 181:2097 - 2102.
4. Daneshmand S, Albers P, Fossa S, et al. Contemporary management of postchemotherapy testis cancer. *Eur Urol* 2012; 62:867 - 876.
5. Sturgeon JF, Moore MJ, Kakiashvili DM, et al. Non - risk - adapted surveillance in clinical stage I nonseminomatous germ cell tumors: the Princess Margaret Hospital's experience. *Eur Urol* 2011; 59:556 - 62.
6. Kollmannsberger C, Moore C, Chi KN, et al. Non - risk - adapted surveillance for patients with stage I nonseminomatous testicular germ - cell tumors: diminishing treatment - related morbidity while maintaining efficacy. *Ann Oncol* 2010; 21:1296 - 301.
7. Kollmannsberger C, Tyldesley S, Moore C, et al. Evolution in management of testicular seminoma: population - based outcomes with selective utilization of active therapies. *Ann Oncol* 2011; 22:808 - 14.
8. Heidenreich A, Pfister D, Witthuhn R, et al. Postchemotherapy retroperitoneal lymph node dissection in advanced testicular cancer: radical or modified template resection. *Eur Urol* 2009; 55:217 - 26.
9. Daneshmand S, Djaladat H, Nichols C. Management of residual mass in nonseminomatous germ cell tumors following chemotherapy. *Ther Adv Urol* 2011; 3:163 - 71.
10. Krege, S., Beyer, J., Souchon, R. et al. European consensus conference on diagnosis and treatment of germ cell cancer: a report of the second meeting of the European germ cell cancer consensus group (EGCCCG): Part II. *Eur Urol* 2008; 53: 497 - 513.
11. Albers P, Weissbach L, Krege S, et al., German Testicular Cancer Study Group. Prediction of necrosis after chemotherapy of advanced germ cell tumors: results of a prospective multicenter trial of the German Testicular Cancer Study Group. *J Urol* 2004; 171:1835 - 8.
12. Oldenburg J, Alfsen GC, Lien HH, et al. Postchemotherapy retroperitoneal surgery remains necessary in patients with nonseminomatous testicular cancer and minimal residual tumor masses. *J Clin Oncol* 2003; 21:3310 - 7.
13. Carver, B.S., Shayegan, B., Serio, A., et al. Long - term clinical outcome after postchemotherapy retroperitoneal lymph node dissection in men with residual teratoma. *J Clin Oncol* 2007; 25:1033 - 1037.
14. Suzuki, K., Orikasa, S., Hoshi, S., et al. The significance of resections for residual masses after chemotherapy in metastatic testicular tumors. *Int J Urol* 1999; 6:305 - 313.
15. Stephenson AJ, Tal R, Sheinfeld J. Adjunctive nephrectomy at postchemotherapy retroperitoneal lymph node dissection for nonseminomatous germ cell testicular cancer. *J Urol* 2006; 176:1996 - 9.
16. Mosharafa AA, Foster RS, Koch MO, et al. Complications of postchemotherapy retroperitoneal lymph node dissection for testis cancer. *J Urol* 2004; 171:1839 - 41.
17. De Santis M, Becherer A, Bokemeyer C, et al. 2 - 18fluoro - deoxy - Dglucose positron emission tomography is a reliable predictor for viable tumor in postchemotherapy seminoma: an update of the prospective multicentric SEMPET trial. *J Clin Oncol* 2004; 22:1034 - 9.
18. Bachner M, Loriot Y, Gross - Goupil M, et al. 2 - 18fluoro - deoxy - Dglucose positron emission tomography (FDG - PET) for postchemotherapy seminoma residual lesions: a retrospective validation of the SEMPET trial. *Ann Oncol* 2012; 23:59 - 64.
19. Lavery H, Bahnson R, Sharp D. et al. Management of the residual post - chemotherapy retroperitoneal mass in germ cell tumors. *Ther Adv Urol*, 2009; 1:199 - 207.
20. Kollmannsberger C, Daneshmand S, So A, et al. Management of disseminated nonseminomatous germ cell tumors with risk - based chemotherapy followed by response - guided postchemotherapy surgery. *J Clin Oncol* 2010; 28:537 - 42.
21. Ehrlich Y, Brames MJ, Beck SD, et al. Long - term follow - up of cisplatin combination chemotherapy in patients with disseminated nonseminomatous germ cell tumors: is a postchemotherapy retroperitoneal lymph node dissection needed after complete remission? *J Clin Oncol* 2010; 28:531 - 6.
22. Pfister D, Busch J., Winter C et al. Pathohistological findings in patients with nonseminomatous germ cell tumours who undergo postchemotherapy retroperitoneal lymph node dissection for small tumours. *J Urol*, 2011, AUA abstract # 830.
23. Daneshmand S, Stephenson AJ, Sheinfeld J, et al. The management of subcentimeter residual mass in NSGCT: pcRPLND vs. observation. *Urol Oncol* 2011; 29:842 - 7.
24. Heidenreich A. and Pfister D. Retroperitoneal lymphadenectomy and resection for testicular cancer: an update on best practice. *Ther Adv Urol* 2012, 0:1 - 19.





- 
25. Carver BS, Shayegan B, Eggener S, et al. Incidence of metastatic non-seminomatous germ cell tumor outside the boundaries of a modified postchemotherapy retroperitoneal lymph node dissection. *J Clin Oncol* 2007; 25:4365 - 9.
  26. Beck SD, Foster RS, Bihrlé R, et al. Is full bilateral retroperitoneal lymph node dissection always necessary for postchemotherapy residual tumor? *Cancer* 2007; 110:1235 - 40.
  27. Eggener SE, Carver BS, Sharp DS, et al. Incidence of disease outside modified retroperitoneal lymph - node dissection templates in clinical stage I or IIA nonseminomatous germ cell testicular cancer. *J Urol* 2007; 177:937 - 42.
  28. Beck SD, Foster RS, Bihrlé R, et al. Pathologic findings and therapeutic outcome of desparation post - chemotherapy retroperitoneal lymph node dissection in advanced germ cell cancer. *Urol Oncol* 2005; 23:423 - 30.
  29. Beck SD, Foster RS, Bihrlé R, et al. Outcome analysis for patients with elevated serum tumor markers at postchemotherapy retroperitoneal lymph node dissection. *J Clin Oncol* 2005; 23:6149 - 56.
  30. Beck SD, Foster RS, Bihrlé R, et al. Post chemotherapy RPLND inpatients with elevated markers: current concepts and clinical outcome. *Urol Clin North Am* 2007; 34:219 - 25.
  31. Spiess PE, Kassouf W, Brown GA, et al. Surgical management of growing teratoma syndrome: the M. D. Anderson Cancer Center experience. *J Urol* 2007; 177:1330 - 4.
  32. Pettus JA, Carver BS, Masterson T, et al. Preservation of ejaculation in patients undergoing nerve - sparing postchemotherapy retroperitoneal lymph node dissection for metastatic testicular cancer. *Urology* 2009; 73:328 - 31.
  33. Albers P. Surgery in testis cancer: laparoscopic and open techniques. *Curr Opin Urol* 2002; 12:435 - 40.

## REVIEW

# High risk prognostic factors after radical prostatectomy

Stefanos Adamis, Ioannis Varkarakis

2nd Department of Urology, University of Athens, Sismanoglion Hospital

## Abstract

Prostate cancer encompasses a wide spectrum of tumor phenotypes with differing prognoses and tumour recurrence is observed in a significant number of these cases. As treatment should be tailored to each individual patient depending on the features of their disease, urologists need to be able to estimate treatment outcomes. This paper presents

the parameters that determine the risk of recurrence after radical prostatectomy. These parameters are based on clinical and histopathological findings, as well as on abnormal changes in PSA values after surgery. Taking these parameters into account, urologists can determine the further appropriate treatment of patients.

## Introduction

Prostate cancer is considered the 3rd most common solid tumour condition in Western countries, after lung cancer and colon cancer<sup>1</sup>. It is estimated that 500,000 new patients are diagnosed with prostate cancer worldwide each year<sup>2</sup> and every patient is faced with two basic questions: what should be done to better manage the disease and what is his life expectancy after initial treatment? Both these questions have been difficult to answer up to now, because, despite the fact that prostate cancer shows relatively slow progression, exceptions to this rule have often been observed and many cases of aggressive forms of the disease have been described. In fact, prostate cancer is still the second most common cause of death in men<sup>3</sup>.

During the last two decades, PSA mass testing has helped in the early diagnosis of prostate cancer and,

subsequently, in increasing the probability of cure after local treatment. Therefore, the rate of clinically advanced prostate cancer out of all newly diagnosed prostate cancers dropped, from 41% in the 80s, to <9% in the 90s<sup>4,5</sup>. However, despite this favourable shift in

the disease stage, which has led to a significant reduction in mortality and a significant increase in disease - specific survival rates, 15% of patients present with high - risk cancer, whose characteristics are locally advanced disease or distant metastases<sup>6</sup>. The majority of these patients have a worse 10 - year cancer specific survival rate. However,

in many cases, this rule does not apply and prognosis is better than expected<sup>7</sup>. On the other hand, in 15 - 40% of patients with early - stage prostate cancer, the disease will progress, despite appropriate initial treatment<sup>8</sup>. Therefore, the inaccurate assessment of the disease's risk profile may lead to improper treat-

### Key words

**prostate cancer;  
radical prostatectomy;  
histopathological  
findings; recurrence risk**

### Corresponding author:

Ioannis Varkarakis, Tel.: 6976809609, E-mail: medvark3@yahoo.com

ment, such as the indiscriminate use of hormonal manipulations or other adjuvants, as well as the incorrect exclusion of certain patients from potentially healing topical treatments<sup>9</sup>.

This review presents the risk factors for recurrence after radical prostatectomy (RP). Radical prostatectomy (RP) is an effective method of treatment for patients with locally localised disease and has been shown to reduce the risk of death due to this. Approximately 40% of patients who choose treatment for curative purposes undergo RP<sup>10</sup>. One of the key advantages of RP is the possibility of accurate staging, based on the histopathological evaluation of the removed prostate.

A disease with advanced histopathological findings is found in 38% to 52% of patients<sup>11</sup>. Any form of extraprostatic extension of the disease is linked to a significantly increased risk of recurrence and progression, expressed through the early measurement of detectable PSA levels, known as biochemical failure (BCF)<sup>12</sup>. The natural history of prostate cancer with biochemical failure after RP may vary. However, about two-thirds of these patients will develop metastatic disease if there is no therapeutic intervention and most of them will die of the disease<sup>13</sup>. The most comprehensive study of the natural history of prostate cancer and biochemical failure published was conducted in 1997, on a large series of post-RP patients<sup>14</sup>. This study observed biochemical failure in 15% of cases, while the mean time between RP and BCF was 3.5 years. The five-year clinical recurrence rate was 27-60% and was found to be linked to the interval between RP and BCF, the Gleason score of the prostatectomy preparation and the PSA doubling time (PSA-DT). The mean time from BCF to clinical recurrence was 8 years.

### High risk pathological factors after RP

#### *Gleason Score of the surgical preparation*

As known, the histological differentiation of the tumour usually reflects its aggressiveness. It is generally accepted that the Gleason Score (GS) is one of the most influential factors in determining the therapeutic treatment of prostate cancer<sup>15</sup>. Thus, a GS of 8-10 is clearly linked to disease progression and is considered a poor prognostic factor.

In the surgical preparation, there can be more than two primary Gleason grades. The third most preva-

lent pattern in Gleason grading, i.e. that occupying the third largest tumour region, is called the tertiary Gleason grade. In surgical preparations where the tertiary Gleason grade is higher than the corresponding primary and secondary grades (usually grade 4 or 5), this is also recorded. There is increasing evidence that small areas with a grade 4 or 5 tertiary Gleason score are linked to aggressive abnormalities and a high risk of BCF<sup>18,19</sup>. Recently, in a prospective study, Alenda et al.<sup>20</sup> showed that the primary Gleason grade remained a statistical prognostic factor for BCF ( $P = 0.018$ ) at multivariate analysis level. When the analysis was based on the pathological stage and the surgical margins, the prognostic value of the primary Gleason grade was important for pT2R0, pT3-4R0 and pT3-4R1 stage tumours, while the survival curves showed no statistical difference in tumour stage pT2R1 ( $P = 0.672$ ). The authors concluded that the primary Gleason grade 4 was an independent prognostic factor for BCF.

Moreover, a high Gleason Score of the surgical preparation is a more important factor than the extracapsular extension of the disease. Epstein et al.<sup>21</sup> observed that in patients with extracapsular disease extension without invasion of the seminal vesicles and lymph nodes, high-grade tumours showed a significantly greater risk of progression compared to lower grade tumours, suggesting that the extracapsular extension of the disease alone, in the absence of other pathological factors (e.g., high Gleason Score, positive surgical margins) does not imply a high risk for recurrence.

#### *Positive surgical margins*

Positive surgical margins (PSM) are defined as the presence of tumour at the inked surface of the resected RP specimen. There are two types of PSMs: iatrogenic and non-iatrogenic. In other words, PSMs can be the result of resection in patients with extraprostatic disease (stage pT3a), or of capsular incision in localised disease (stage pT2+)<sup>22</sup>. From an oncological viewpoint, the presence of PSMs in the RP preparation theoretically implies the inadequate removal of the malignant tumour. Retrospective studies have demonstrated the existence of PSMs as a risk factor for future BCF in all patients with clinically localised disease<sup>23</sup>. Therefore, PSMs have been associated with poor prognosis in several studies, and most researchers consider them as an independent prognostic factor of prostate can-

cer recurrence after RP<sup>22,24</sup>. However, other researchers question the above findings, claiming that PSMs are not an independent prognostic factor of recurrence and disease progression<sup>25</sup>. Furthermore, there are studies showing that, in the coexistence of abnormalities, such as a rate of Gleason grades 4/5 in the RP preparation, invasion of the seminal vesicles and lymph node invasion, the existence of PSMs plays no role in the assessment of the oncological outcome<sup>26</sup>. Thus, the influence of surgical margins on disease progression in patients after RP remains controversial and it is debatable whether PSMs are the result of the unfavourable biological behaviour of the tumour, of technical errors, or both. It is understood that iatrogenic capsular incisions in low - grade localised prostate cancer have a different prognostic value than PSMs due to extraprostatic extension in high - grade tumours<sup>27</sup>. In a retrospective study, Eastham et al.<sup>28</sup> found that PSMs were significantly higher in patients with stage pT3 disease (35.7%) than in patients with pT2 disease (13.6%). Similar findings were reported by Vis et al.<sup>24</sup>, in a similar population study, in which the rates of PSMs in stage pT2 and pT3 disease were 18% and 40% respectively ( $p < 0.01$ ). However, in a recent retrospective study of 300 post - RP patients, Psutka et al.<sup>29</sup> showed that the presence of PSMs was associated with a shorter time to BCF in patients with stage pT2, but not in patients with stage pT3 disease, whereas, in the latter, the existence of PSMs was not linked to an increased risk of BCF (HR: 0.747; 95% CI: 0.328 - 1.703). However, there are also studies showing that there are differences in the mean age and mean preoperative PSA values between cases with and without PSMs, concluding that the differences in the rates of PSMs may depend on other parameters, other than the histopathological stage of the disease, such as preoperative PSA values and the Gleason score of the prostatic biopsy<sup>30,31</sup>. Alkhateeb et al.<sup>31</sup> observed that the preoperative PSA values and the Gleason Score of preparation are linked to the rates of PSMs, and thus, when patients were categorised according to the D'Amico classification system in 3 risk categories for recurrence, those who were low - risk presented lower PSM rates than the corresponding mid - and high - risk patients. (12.3% vs 21.8% and 34.5% respectively,  $p < 0.001$ ).

Some studies have investigated the prognostic significance of the location, number and extent of PSMs.

Some of them noted a difference in the risk of recurrence between focal or solitary PSMs and extensive or multifocal PSMs<sup>32</sup>, while others found no difference<sup>25,33</sup>. Sofer et al.<sup>32</sup> demonstrated that BCF was significantly more frequent in patients with multiple PSMs, compared to patients with a solitary PSM (HR: 2.19; 95% CI: 1.11 - 4.32); however, the anatomical location of the PSM did not play a role. On the other hand, Eastham et al.<sup>23</sup> demonstrated that BCF was significantly affected by the specific anatomical location of the PSMs, showing that a posterolateral prostatic location has the greatest recurrence rates in the existence of PSMs. Other studies report that solitary PSMs in the area of the prostatic apex are linked to higher recurrence rates and shorter times to disease progression<sup>34</sup>, while other studies show that PSMs in the prostate base area present the greatest risk for BCF<sup>35</sup>. However, it remains unclear why PSMs in a specific area of the prostate can be a prognostic factor for recurrence of the disease, while in others not.

#### *Extraprostatic extension*

Extraprostatic extension (EE) of the disease is defined as the presence of neoplastic prostatic glands outside the prostate, in the periprostatic tissue. The term EE was accepted in 1996 and replaced the hitherto used terms, such as extracapsular or extraglandular invasion, penetration, or perforation<sup>36</sup>. Nevertheless, disagreements about what the term Extraprostatic extension comprises still exist. This definition is, however, somewhat oversimplified as the prostate does not possess a histological capsule and it can be challenging for pathologists to identify the boundary of the gland<sup>37</sup>. It therefore follows that the diagnosis of extraprostatic extension can be made with varying criteria in different regions of the prostate<sup>38</sup>. In the posterior, posterolateral and lateral aspects, the diagnosis of extraprostatic extension is relatively easy, as the tumour is located in the periprostatic fat<sup>39</sup>.

Extraprostatic extension is a well documented pathological prognostic factor for prostate cancer and its precise diagnosis is imperative for correct further treatment after RP. Both EE and PSMs have prognostic significance. Although several studies show the superiority of one over the other, in most of them, the separation of these two factors as to their prognostic significance proved difficult<sup>40</sup>. The probability of assessing

the prognostic significance of a factor in multivariate studies depends on the type and number of other factors<sup>41</sup>. Thus, for example, in patients with invasion of the seminal vesicles or regional lymph nodes, the PSMs or EE of the disease are probably not independent prognostic factors. Although their prognostic significance is important in the absence of other factors, it is, however, less important when other risk factors, such as invasion of the seminal vesicles and lymph nodes, coexist. The independent prognostic significance of the EE of the disease is less certain than that of PSMs. However, studies have shown that EE does have a certain prognostic value. More specifically, it has been reported that the rates of 5 - year and 10 - year progression free survival in patients with EE without PSMs are 48% - 76% and 46% - 90%, respectively<sup>42,43</sup>. In patients with EE and PSMs, these rates were 33% - 55% and 20% - 53% respectively<sup>24,30,44</sup>.

The relationship between EE and PSMs remains unknown. Only a limited number of studies have evaluated the effect of these two factors on disease progression, in the absence of other risk factors. In one such study, Cheng et al.<sup>30</sup> observed that there is a significant correlation between these two factors, as patients with EE and PSMs had higher rates of disease progression compared to those with EE or PSMs alone.

### *Seminal vesicle invasion*

Seminal vesicle invasion (SVI) is defined as the invasion of the muscular wall of the seminal vesicles. SVI is linked to poor prognosis, as it usually concerns prostate cancer with a poorly differentiated large tumour, which has a high likelihood of extraprostatic extension<sup>45</sup>. In patients with SVI, disease recurrence rates after RP are almost uniform worldwide<sup>46</sup>. Nevertheless, few studies investigating tumours with isolated SVI have attempted to stratify the prognosis based on the parameter of SVI alone<sup>47</sup>. Epstein et al.<sup>48</sup> investigated the above question in a study of 45 patients with SVI as an isolated finding, who underwent long - term monitoring. They observed that the prognosis of patients with SVI was not calculated based on the malignant tumour, the extent of the SVI, or the bilateral localisation of the SVI. On the contrary, the condition of the surgical margins and the Gleason score of the RP preparation (Gleason score <7 vs ≥7) served as prognostic parameters, although without statistical significance. How-

ever, Ohori et al.<sup>49</sup> reported that the condition of the surgical margins does not affect disease progression in cases with SVI. In a series of 137 patients with SVI as an isolated finding, Salomon et al.<sup>50</sup> observed that only preoperative PSA values and the Gleason score of the RP preparation were independent prognostic factors for disease progression, while both capsular invasion and PSMs were not. According to the authors, the 5 - year progression - free survival rate was 33.8%, but rates of 5% - 60% have also been reported<sup>51</sup>.

### *Malignant tumour*

The prognostic value of malignant tumours (MT) for predicting BCF after RP has been questioned and has not yet been fully clarified. Large malignant tumours have been associated with the existence of other abnormal findings, such as a high Gleason Score, PSMs, SVI and lymph nodes<sup>52,53</sup>. However, the role of MTs as an independent prognostic factor for BCF remains controversial. In a retrospective study, Salomon et al.<sup>54</sup> found that, in a univariate analysis, the Gleason Score of the preparation, the pathological stage of the disease, PSMs and MTs were prognostic factors. In a multivariate analysis, however, it was found that only the Gleason Score of the preparation and the pathological stage of the disease were risk factors for disease progression, and if these parameters are known, MTs provide no significant prognostic information. Contrary to the above, Rampersaud et al.<sup>55</sup> found that the MT rate is a significant prognostic factor for BCF and can be used as a basis for stratifying patients in relation to their pathological stage. More recently, Thompson et al.<sup>56</sup> reported that the disagreement on the role of MTs arises because of the way in which they are measured. The authors concluded that MTs are a significant prognostic factor only if they are measured directly, by planimetry, rather than by percentile calculation. The above findings show that although a large MT can be a high - risk parameter for recurrence after RP, its precise role has not been clarified yet.

### *Perineural invasion*

Perineural invasion (PI) is an abnormal finding of disputable prognostic value. It seems that PI is the route by which the disease can extend outside of the prostate. In many studies, PI is reported as simple finding, which is just monitored. For example, in a study of 17

TABLE	<i>Characteristics and prognostic significance of abnormal findings after RP</i>
Abnormal finding	Prognostic significance
Gleason Score (GS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well documented prognostic factor</li> <li>• GS 8-10: poor prognostic factor</li> </ul>
Positive Surgical Margins (PSMs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent prognostic factor for biochemical failure</li> <li>• Their prognostic value is still disputed in multivariate analyses</li> </ul>
Extraprostatic Extension (EE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well documented prognostic factor</li> <li>• Significant correlation between PSMs and EE</li> <li>• Its independent prognostic value is not certain</li> </ul>
Seminal vesicle invasion (SVI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linked to poor prognosis</li> <li>• In the presence of SVI, other prognostic parameters such as PSMs do not play an important role in prognosis</li> </ul>
Malignant tumour (MT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Its prognostic value is questionable and has not been fully clarified</li> <li>• Its role as an independent prognostic factor is controversial</li> <li>• In univariate analyses, it is considered as a prognostic factor for disease progression</li> <li>• In multivariate analyses, it has no prognostic value</li> </ul>
Perineural Invasion (PI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not considered as a robust independent prognostic factor</li> </ul>
Lymphovascular Invasion (LVI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is linked to the presence of other abnormal findings</li> <li>• Its role as an independent prognostic factor is controversial</li> <li>• Does not have significant prognostic value in multivariate analyses</li> </ul>

patients with disease recurrence, PI was found in 14 (82%)<sup>57</sup>. Apart from this, no other real relationship of PI with recurrence has been found. Therefore, based on the data so far, PI is not an independent prognostic factor for recurrence of the disease<sup>58</sup>.

### *Lymphovascular invasion*

Lymphovascular invasion (LVI) is an abnormal finding after RP and is defined as the presence of tumour cells in the vascular or lymphatic endothelial network. The incidence of LVI in RP preparations has been reported to be between 5% and 53%<sup>59</sup>. LVI has been associated with other abnormalities, such as a high Gleason score, a high pathological T stage, PSMs and SVI<sup>60,61</sup>. Its role as an independent prognostic factor for disease recurrence is disputed. It is reported that LVI is linked to a great extent with high rates of disease progression after RP<sup>60,62</sup>. De Taille et al.<sup>63</sup> observed that the biochemical recurrence - free survival rate was 30% in patients with LVI and 92% in patients without LVI. Ouden et al.<sup>64</sup> consider that LVI is a significant prognostic factor for biochemical, local clinical recurrence, distant metastases and overall survival. There are studies demonstrating an independent, significant correlation of LVI with disease progression in multivariate analyses.<sup>62-65</sup>. However,

other studies have found that LVI has no significance in multivariate analysis, in the coexistence of other parameters, such as preoperative PSA values, lymph node metastases, and the Gleason score<sup>60</sup>. Recently, Yee et al.<sup>67</sup> made reference to the correlation of LVI with high preoperative PSA values and Gleason scores, and a greater likelihood for EE, PSMs, SVI and lymph node metastases in a univariate analysis ( $P < 0.001$  for all). At a median follow - up of 27 months, LVI was significantly associated with an increased risk of BCF after RP in both a univariate ( $P < 0.001$ ), and a multivariate analysis. (HR: 1.77; 95% CI: 1.11 - 2.82;  $P = 0.017$ ). Despite this, the authors concluded that LVI had a small contribution to prognosis as compared to other risk factors in a short follow - up.

### *Lymph node invasion*

Lymph node invasion (LNI) is a well established independent prognostic factor in patients with prostate cancer and its existence implies a poor prognosis compared to patients without LNI<sup>38,68</sup>. Indeed, even today RP is abandoned if lymph nodes positive for metastasis are found during the resection of pelvic lymph nodes. The above management was based on a theory, supported by many authors, according to which the sur-

gical removal of the prostate in patients with positive lymph nodes does not impart any benefit in survival, due to the systemic nature of the disease<sup>69</sup>. The above theory was confirmed by a large randomised EORTC trial<sup>70</sup>, which investigated the difference between early and late hormone therapy in stage pN1 - 3M0 prostate cancer, without topical treatment of the primary tumour.

However, in 1999, a Mayo Clinic study in patients with high - risk prostate cancer with positive lymph node metastases showed that, compared to hormone therapy, the combination of RP and hormonal therapy significantly improved overall survival in a carefully selected number of patients with similar ages, T stages, numbers of positive lymph nodes and pre-operative PSA values<sup>71</sup>. The 10 - year overall survival rate was 65% for patients who underwent RP and hormonal therapy, versus 30% for patients who underwent hormone therapy alone. More recently, Engel et al.<sup>72</sup> published data from the Munich Cancer Registry, which supported the Mayo Clinic study and showed better survival rates in patients who underwent RP despite the presence of lymph node metastases, compared to patients in whom RP was abandoned after diagnosis.

Several studies have attempted to clarify what features of LNI have significant prognostic value. Such are considered, amongst else, the malignant tumours of lymph nodes, the number of positive lymph nodes, the density of lymph nodes, the extranodal extension of the disease, lymphovascular invasion and tumour differentiation. In the event of LNI, the small size and the small volume of the tumour are considered favourable characteristics<sup>73</sup>. However, the current prostate cancer staging system has no subcategory for lymph node positive patients, which could provide a better picture for the prognosis of these patients.

### *Changes in PSA values after RP*


Changes in PSA values after RP have been thoroughly investigated regarding their usefulness as prognostic factors for clinical progression (CP) and prostate cancer specific mortality (PCSM). The PSA doubling time (PSA - DT) after RP is directly related to CP and PCSM. Zhou et al.<sup>74</sup> investigated the prognostic factors for PCSM in a series of 489 patients with biochemical failure, which included the PSA - DT, the Gleason score, and the inter-

val between RP and BCF. The authors found that a PSA - DT of  $\leq 3$  months was significantly linked to PCSM, whose rate 5 years after BCF was 31% in patients with a PSA - DT of  $\leq 3$  months, compared to 1% in patients with a PSA - DT of  $\geq 3$  months. Pound et al.<sup>75</sup> found that a PSA - DT of  $< 10$  months could predict the time until metastatic disease progression. However, the PSA - DT was dependent on the Gleason score of the preparation and a Gleason score of  $> 7$  was a more robust prognostic factor of metastatic disease progression. This study nevertheless showed that the most significant prognostic factors were the interval between RP and BCF and the advanced histopathological stage of the disease.

In general, many authors consider the PSA - DT representative for PCSM<sup>76</sup>. Patel et al.<sup>77</sup> report a close relationship of a PSA - DT of  $\leq 3$  months with clinical progression of the disease; however, 43% of patients with clinical progression in their study had a PSA - DT of  $\geq 6$  months. In addition, there are data supporting that the majority of patients who die from prostate cancer have a PSA - DT of  $\geq 3$  months<sup>78</sup>, and therefore that the determination of the risk of disease progression should not be based on the PSA - DT alone.

The following table summarises the main pathological findings after RP in conjunction with their prognostic value.

### **Conclusion**

Prostate cancer is a clinical entity that concerns a very diverse group of patients. The complex natural history of the disease and the lack of an accurate determination of risk can lead to delayed decisions on further treatment. The aim of the initial treatment is to prevent death and minimise complications. In other words, the endpoint of every therapeutic intervention is the patient's survival. Therefore, the inaccurate determination of risk may lead to improper treatment, such as the indiscriminate use of hormonal therapy or other therapeutic options, or, on the other hand, to the exclusion of certain patients from curative treatment options. The determination of the risk of recurrence and disease progression after RP is based on specific clinical and histopathological findings. However, the assessment of these findings should be done with great care, to allow further treatment to be tailored to each individual patient. 

## Περίληψη

Ο καρκίνος του προστάτη εμφανίζει ένα ευρύ φάσμα καρκινικών φαινοτύπων με διαφορετικές προγνώσεις και σε σημαντικό αριθμό περιπτώσεων παρατηρείται υποτροπή της νόσου.

Καθώς η θεραπευτική αντιμετώπιση της νόσου θα πρέπει να εξατομικεύεται για κάθε ασθενή, ανάλογα με τα χαρακτηριστικά της νόσου, ο ουρολόγος θα πρέπει να είναι σε θέση να προσδιορίζει τα αποτελέσματα της θεραπείας. Στην παρούσα εργασία παρουσιάζονται οι πα-

### Λέξεις ερευρησιασμού

**καρκίνος του προστάτη,  
ριζική προστατεκτομή,  
ιστοπαθολογικά  
ευρήματα, κίνδυνος  
υποτροπής**

ράμετροι που καθορίζουν τον κίνδυνο υποτροπής μετά από ριζική προστατεκτομή. Οι παράμετροι αυτές βασίζονται σε κλινικά και ιστοπαθολογικά ευρήματα, καθώς και σε παθολογικές μεταβολές των τιμών του PSA μετά το χειρουργείο.

Λαμβάνοντας υπόψη τις παραμέτρους αυτές ο ουρολόγος μπορεί να καθορίσει την περαιτέρω ενδεδειγμένη θεραπευτική αντιμετώπιση των ασθενών.

## References

- Jemal A, Siegel R, Xu J, Ward E : Cancer statistics. 2010. CA Cancer J Clin 2010; 60: 277 - 300.
- Quinn M, Babb P: Patterns and trends in prostate cancer incidence, survival, prevalence and mortality. Part I international comparisons. BJU Int 2002; 90: 162 - 73.
- Boyle P, Ferlay J.: Cancer incidence and mortality in Europe 2004. Ann Oncol 2005;16(3): 481 - 8.
- Metzlin C, Murphy GP, Babaian RJ, Chesley A, Kane RA, Littrup PJ, et al.: Observation on the early detection of prostate cancer from the American Cancer Society - National Prostate Cancer Detection Project. Cancer 1997; 80: 1814 - 17.
- Farkas A, Schneider D, Perrotti M, Cummings CB, Wars WS: National trends in the epidemiology of prostate cancer, 1973 to 1984: evidence for the effectiveness of prostate specific antigen screening. Urology 1986; 52: 444 - 9.
- Cooperberg MR, Lubeck DP, Mehla SS, Carroll PR : Time trends in clinical risk stratification for prostate cancer: implications for outcomes (data from CaPSURE). J Urol 2009; 170: S21 - S25.
- Khan MA, Partin AW: Management of High - risk populations with locally advanced prostate cancer. The Oncologist 2003; 8: 259 - 69.
- Babaian RJ, Troncoso P, Bhadkamkar VA, Johnston DA: Analysis of clinicopathologic factors predicting outcome after radical prostatectomy. Cancer 2001; 81: 1414 - 22.
- Nguyen CT, Reuther AM, Stephenson AJ, Klein EA, Jones JS: The specific definition of high risk prostate cancer has minimal impact on biochemical relapse - free survival. J Urol 2009; 181:75 - 80.
- Loeb S, Schaeffer EM, Trock BJ, Epstein JL, Humphreys EB, Walsh PC: What are the outcomes of radical prostatectomy for high - risk prostate cancer? Urology 2010; 76(3): 710 - 4.
- Ward JF, Zincke H, Bergstrahl EJ, Slezak JM, Myers RP, Blute ML: The impact of surgical approach (nerve bundle preservation versus wide local excision) on surgical margins and biochemical recurrence following radical prostatectomy. J Urol 2004; 172: 1328 - 32.
- Stephenson AJ, Scardino PT, Eastham JA, Bianco Jr FJ, Dotan ZA, DiBlasio CJ, et al.: Postoperative nomogram predicting the 10 - year probability of prostate cancer recurrence after radical prostatectomy. J Clin Oncol 2005; 23: 7005 - 12.
- Pound CR, Partin AW, Eisenberger MA, Chan DW, Pearson JD, Walsh PC: Natural history of progression after PSA elevation following radical prostatectomy. JAMA 1999; 281: 1591 - 7.
- Freedland SJ, Humphreys EB, Mangold LA, Eisenberger M, Dorey FJ, Walsh PC et al.: Risk of prostate cancer - specific mortality following biochemical recurrence after radical prostatectomy. JAMA 2005; 294: 433 - 9.
- Gleason DF, Mellinger GT: Prediction of prognosis for prostatic adenocarcinoma by combined histological grading and clinical staging. J Urol 2002; 167: 953 - 8.
- Delahunt B, Srigley JR, Lamb DS. Gleason grading: consensus and controversy. Pathology 2009; 41: 613 - 4.
- Pan CC, Potter SR, Partin AW, Epstein JI. The prognostic significance of tertiary Gleason patterns of higher grade in radical prostatectomy specimens: a proposal to modify the Gleason grading system. Am J Surg Pathol 2000; 24: 563 - 9.



18. Harnden P, Shelley MD, Coles B, Staffurth J, Mason MD. Should the Gleason grading system for prostate cancer be modified to account for high - grade tertiary components? A systematic review and meta - analysis. *Lancet Oncol* 2007; 8: 411 - 9.
19. Sim HG, Telesca D, Culp SH, Ellis WJ, Lange PH, True LD et al.: Tertiary Gleason pattern 5 in Gleason7 prostate cancer predicts pathological stage and biochemical recurrence. *J Urol* 2008; 179: 1775 - 9.
20. Alenda O, Ploussard G, Mouracade P, Xylinas E, de la Taille A, Al-lory Y, et al.: Impact of the primary Gleason pattern on biochemical recurrence - free survival after radical prostatectomy: a single - center cohort of 1,248 patients with Gleason 7 tumors. *World J Urol* 2010.
21. Epstein JI, Amin M, Boccon - Gibod L, Egevad L, Humphrey PA, Mikuz G, et al.: Prognostic factors and reporting of prostate carcinoma in radical prostatectomy and pelvic lymphadenectomy specimens. *Scand J Urol Nephrol Suppl* 2005; 216:34 - 63.
22. Swindle P, Eastham JA, Ohori M, Kattan MW, Wheeler T, Maru N et al.: Do margins matter? The prognostic significance of positive surgical margins in radical prostatectomy specimens. *J Urol* 2005; 174: 903 - 7.
23. Eastham JA, Kuroiwa K, Ohori M, Serio AM, Gorbonos A, Maru N, et al.: Prognostic significance of location of positive surgical margins in radical prostatectomy specimens. *Urology* 2007; 70: 965 - 9.
24. Pfizenmaier J, Pahernik S, Tremmel T, Haferkamp A, Buse S, Hohenfellner M: Positive surgical margins after radical prostatectomy: do they have an impact on biochemical or clinical progression? *BJU Int* 2008; 102: 1413 - 8.
25. Vis AN, Schroeder FH, van der Kwast TH: The actual value of the surgical margin status as a predictor of disease progression in men with early prostate cancer. *Eur Urol* 2006; 50: 258 - 65.
26. Simon MA, Kim S, Soloway MS: Prostate specific antigen recurrence rates are low after radical retropubic prostatectomy and positive margins. *J Urol* 2006; 175: 140 - 4.
27. Yossepowitch O, Bjartell A, Eastham JA, Graefen M, Guillonneau BD, Karakiewicz PI, et al.: Positive surgical margins in radical prostatectomy: outlining the problem and its long - term consequences. *Eur Urol* 2009; 55: 87 - 99.
28. Eastham JA, Kattan MW, Riedel E, Begg CB, Wheeler T, Geriok C, et al.: Variation among individual surgeons in the rate of positive surgical margins in radical prostatectomy specimens. *J Urol* 2003; 170: 2292 - 6.
29. Psutka SP, Feldman AS, Rodin D, Olumi AF, Wu CH, McDougal WS: Men with organ - confined prostate cancer and positive surgical margins develop biochemical failure at a similar rate to men with extracapsular extension. *Urology* 2011; 78(1): 121 - 5.
30. Cheng L, Darson MF, Bergstrahl EJ, Slezak J, Myers RP, Bostwick DG: Correlation of margin status and extraprostatic extension with progression of prostate carcinoma. *Cancer* 1999; 86: 1775 - 82.
31. Alkhateeb S, Alibhai S, Fleshner N, Finelli A, Jewett M, Zlotta A, et al.: Impact of positive surgical margins after radical prostatectomy differs by disease risk group. *J Urol* 2010; 183: 145 - 50.
32. Sofer M, Hamilton - Nelson KL, Civantos F, Soloway MS: Positive surgical margins after radical retropubic prostatectomy: the influence of site and number on progression. *J Urol* 2002; 167: 2453 - 6.
33. Marks RA, Koch MO, Lopez - Beltran A, Montironi R, Juliar BE, Cheng L: The relationship between the extend of surgical margin positivity and prostate specific antigen recurrence in radical prostatectomy specimens. *Hum Pathol* 2007; 38: 1207 - 11.
34. Pettus JA, Weight CJ, Thompson CJ, Middleton RG, Stephenson RA: Biochemical failure in men following radical retropubic prostatectomy: impact of surgical margin status and location. *J Urol* 2004; 172: 129 - 32.
35. Aydin H, Tsuzuki T, Hernandez D, Walsh PC, Parin AW, Epstein JI: Positive proximal (bladder neck) margin at radical prostatectomy confers greater risk of biochemical progression. *Urology* 2004; 64: 551 - 5.
36. Sakr WA, Wheeler TM, Blute M, Bodo M, Calle - Rodrigue R, Henson DE, et al. Staging and reporting of prostate cancer - sampling of the radical prostatectomy specimen. *Cancer* 1996; 78: 366 - 8.
37. Ayala AG, Ro JY, Babaian R, Troncoso P, Grignon DJ: The prostatic capsule: does it exist? Its importance in the staging and treatment of prostatic carcinoma. *Am J Surg Pathol* 1989; 13: 21 - 7.
38. Epstein JI, Amin M, Boccon - Gibod L, et al. Prognostic factors and reporting of prostate carcinoma in radical prostatectomy and pelvic lymphadenectomy specimens. *Scand J Nephrol Urol Suppl* 2005; 216; 34 - 63.
39. Magi - Galuzzi C, Evans AJ, Delahunt B, Epstein JI, Griffiths GF, van der Kwast TH, et al.: International Society of Urological Pathology (ISUP) Consensus Conference on Handling and Staging of Radical Prostatectomy Specimens. Working group 3: extraprostatic extension, lymphovascular invasion and locally advanced disease. *Modern Pathology* 2011; 24: 26 - 38.

40. Swanson GP, Basler JW: Prognostic factors for failure after prostatectomy. *Journal of Cancer* 2011; 2: 1 - 19.
41. Han M, Partin AW, Zahurak M, Piantadosi S, Epstein JI, Walsh PC: Biochemical (prostate specific antigen) recurrence probability following radical prostatectomy for clinically localized prostate cancer. *J Urol.* 2003; 169:517 - 23.
42. Blute ML, Bergstralh EJ, Iocca A, Scherer B, Zincke H: Use of Gleason score, prostate specific antigen, seminal vesicle and margin status to predict biochemical failure after radical prostatectomy. *J Urol.* 2001; 165:119 - 25.
43. Roehl KA, Han M, Ramos CG, Antenor JA, Catalona WJ: Cancer progression and survival rates following anatomical radical retropubic prostatectomy in 3,478 consecutive patients: long - term results. *J Urol.* 2004;172:910 - 4.
44. Karakiewicz PI, Eastham JA, Graefen M, Cagiannos E, Stricker PD, Klein E, et al. Prognostic impact of positive surgical margins in surgically treated prostate cancer: multi - institutional assessment of 5831 patients. *Urology.* 2005; 66: 1245 - 50.
45. Ravery V, Boccon - Gibod LA, Meulemans A, Dauge - Geffroy MC, Toubiand M, Boccon - Gibod L, et al.: Predictive value of pathological features for progression after radical prostatectomy. *Eur Urol* 1994; 26: 197 - 201.
46. Khan MA, Partin AW: Management of High - risk populations with locally advanced prostate cancer. *The Oncologist* 2003; 8: 259 - 69.
47. Potter SR, Epstein JI, Partin AW: Seminal vesicle invasion: Significance and therapeutic implications. *Rev Urol* 2000; 2 (3): 190 - 5.
48. Epstein JL, Carmichael M, Walsh PC: Adenocarcinoma of the prostate invading the seminal vesicle: definition and relation of tumor volume, grade and margins of resection to prognosis. *J Urol* 1993; 149: 1040 - 5.
49. Ohori M, Wheeler TM, Kattan MW, Goto Y, Scardino PT: Prognostic significance of positive surgical margins in radical prostatectomy specimens. *J Urol* 1995; 154: 1818 - 24.
50. Salomon L, Anastasiadis AG, Johnson CW, McKiernan JM, Goluboff ET, Abbou CC et al.: Seminal vesicle involvement after radical prostatectomy: predicting risk factors for progression. *Urology* 2003; 62: 304 - 9.
51. Epstein JL, Partin AW, Potter SW, Walsh PC: Adenocarcinoma of the prostate invading the seminal vesicle: prognostic stratification based on pathologic parameters. *Urology* 2000; 56: 283 - 8.
52. Guzzo TJ, Vira MA, Neway W, Hwang WT, Tomaszewski J, van Arsdalen K et al.: Minimal tumor volume may provide additional prognostic information in good performance patients after radical prostatectomy. *Urology* 2007; 69(6): 1147 - 51.
53. Chun FK, Briganti A, Jedres C, Gallina A, Erbersdopler A, Schlomm T et al.: Tumor volume and high grade tumor volume are the best predictors of pathologic stage and biochemical recurrence after radical prostatectomy. *Eur J Cancer* 2007; 43(3): 536 - 43.
54. Salomon L, Levrel O, Anastasiadis AG, Irani J, de la Taille A, Saint F, et al.: Prognostic significance of tumor volume after radical prostatectomy: a multivariate analysis of pathological prognostic factors. *Eur Urol* 2003; 43: 39 - 44.
55. Rampersaud EN, Sun L, Moul JW, Madden J, Freedland SJ: Percent tumor involvement and risk of biochemical progression after radical prostatectomy. *J Urol* 2008; 180: 571 - 6.
56. Thompson IM, Salem S, Chang SS, Clark PE, Davis R, Herrell SD, et al.: Tumor volume as a predictor of adverse pathologic features and biochemical recurrence (BCR) in radical prostatectomy specimens: a tale of two methods. *World J Urol* 2011; 29: 15 - 20.
57. Endrizzi J, Seay T: The relationship between early biochemical failure and perineural invasion in pathological T2 prostate cancer. *Br J Urol* 2000; 85: 696 - 9.
58. Epstein JI. The role of perineural invasion and other bio - characteristics as prognostic markers for localized prostate cancer. *Sem Urol Oncol.* 1998; 16:124 - 8.
59. Brooks JP, Albert PS, O'Connell J, McLeod DG, Poggi MM: Lymphovascular invasion in prostate cancer: prognostic significance in patients treated with radiotherapy after radical prostatectomy. *Cancer* 2006; 106: 1521 - 6.
60. Shariat SF, Khoddami SM, Saboorian H, Koeneman KS, Sagalowsky AI, Cadeddu JA, et al.: Lymphovascular invasion is a pathological feature of biologically aggressive disease in patients treated with radical prostatectomy. *J Urol* 2004; 171: 1122 - 7.
61. May M, Kaufmann O, Hammermann F, Loy V, Siegmund M: Prognostic impact of lymphovascular invasion in radical prostatectomy specimens. *BJU Int*: 2006; 99: 539 - 44.
62. Herman CM, Wilcox GE, Kattan MW, Scardino PT, Wheeler TM: Lymphovascular invasion as a predictor of disease progression in prostate cancer. *Am J Surg Pathol* 2000; 24: 859 - 63.
63. De la Taille A, Rubin MA, Buttyan R, Olsson CA, Bagiella E, Burchardt T, et al.: Is microvascular invasion on radical prostatectomy specimen a useful predictor of PSA recurrence for prostate cancer patients? *Eur Urol* 2000; 38: 79 - 84.
64. Van den Ouden D, Kranse R, Hop WC, van der Kwast TH, Schroder FH: Microvascular invasion in prostate cancer: prognostic significance in patients treated by radical prostatectomy for clinically localized carcinoma. *Urol Int* 1998; 60: 17 - 24.
65. Cheng L, Jones TD, Lin H, Eble JN, Zeng G, Carr MD, et al. Lympho-



- vascular invasion is an independent prognostic factor in prostatic adenocarcinoma. *J Urol* 2005; 174: 2181 - 5.
66. Yee DS, Shariat SF, Lowrance WT, Maschino AC, Savage CJ, Cronin AM, et al.: Prognostic significance of lymphovascular invasion in radical prostatectomy specimens. *BJU Int* 2011; 108 (4): 502 - 7.
  67. Srigley JR. Key issues in handling and reporting radical prostatectomy specimens. *Arch Pathol Lab Med* 2006; 130: 303 - 17.
  68. Lawretschuk N, Trottier G, Kuk C, Zlotta AR: Role of surgery in high - risk localized prostate cancer. *Urol Oncol* 2010; 17 Suppl 2: 25 - 32.
  69. Schroder FH, Kurth KH, Fossa SD, Hoekstra W, Karthaus PP, De Prijck L, et al.: Early versus delayed endocrine treatment of T2 - T3 pN1 - 3 M0 prostate cancer without local treatment of the primary tumour: final results of European Organisation for the Research and Treatment of Cancer protocol 30846 after 13 years of follow - up (a randomized controlled trial). *Eur Urol* 2009; 55: 14 - 22.
  70. Cheng L, Zincke H, Blute ML, Bergstrahl EJ, Scherer B, Bostwick DG: Risk of prostate carcinoma death in patients with lymph node metastasis. *Cancer* 2001; 91(1): 66 - 73.
  71. Engel J, Bastian PJ, Baur H, Beer V, Chaussy C, Gschwend JE: Survival benefit of radical prostatectomy in lymph node - positive patients with prostate cancer. *Eur Urol* 2010; 57: 754 - 61.
  72. Adams J, Cheng L: Lymph node - positive prostate cancer: current issues, emerging technology and impact on clinical outcome. *Expert Rev Anticancer Ther* 2011; 11(9): 1457 - 69.
  73. Zhou P, Chen MH, McLeod D, Carroll PR, Moul JW, D'Amico AV: Predictors of prostate cancer specific mortality after radical prostatectomy or radiation therapy. *J Clin Oncol* 2005; 23: 6992 - 8.
  74. Pound CR, Partin AW, Eisenberger MA, Chan DW, Pearson JD, Walsh PC: Natural history of progression after PSA elevation following radical prostatectomy. *JAMA* 1999; 281: 1591 - 7.
  75. D'Amico AV, Chen MH, Roehl KA, Catalona WJ: Identifying patients at risk for significant versus clinically insignificant post-operative prostate - specific antigen failure. *J Clin Oncol* 2005; 23: 4975 - 9.
  76. D'Amico AV, Moul JW, Carroll PR, Sun L, Lubeck D, Chen MH: Surrogate end point for prostate cancer specific mortality after radical prostatectomy or radiation therapy. *J Natl Cancer Inst* 2003; 95: 1376 - 83.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# PSA measurement in a self - selected population

Dionissios Mitropoulos<sup>1</sup>, Iraklis Poulas<sup>2</sup>, Theodoros Anagnostou<sup>3</sup>,  
Evagelia Kouskouni<sup>4</sup>, Panagiotis Apostolopoulos<sup>5</sup>, Georgios Vidakis<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Professor of Urology, University of Athens

<sup>2</sup>Head of the department of Urology, Red Cross Hospital, Athens

<sup>3</sup>Urologist, General Secretary of the Hellenic Urological Association

<sup>4</sup>Professor of Microbiology, National Kapodistrian University of Athens

<sup>5</sup>Professor, Department of Nuclear Medicine, University Hospital of Patras

<sup>6</sup>Biopathologist/microbiologist, President of Iatrica

## Abstract

**Introduction and objectives:** PSA measurement is used in both mass and opportunistic prostate cancer screening while most guidelines recommend informed decision making about whether to undergo screening and PSA testing. Unfortunately, patients' attitude towards screening and knowledge of the pros and cons of the test has not been thoroughly assessed. The purpose of this study is to review the patient demographic characteristics and PSA distribution in a self - selected population of men taking advantage of a free PSA measurement during the 2014 Prostate Cancer Awareness Week.

**Materials and Methods:** The study comprised 4,453 men presenting for the free PSA test. All men provided unconditionally data of their demographics, history of lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS) and history of their last PSA measurement and previous urological examination.

**Results:** The offer of a free PSA test attracted a total of 4,453 men. Men's age ranged from 37 to 91 years (mean  $57.1 \pm 8.9$  yrs). The majority was between 50 and 70 yrs while 24.7% were <50 yrs and 7.6% >70 yrs. PSA ranged

from 0.01 to 109.4 ng/mL (mean  $1.38 \pm 2.31$  ng/mL). Depending on the cut - off value ( $\geq 2.5$ ,  $\geq 3.0$  or  $\geq 4.0$  ng/mL), a subsequent diagnostic evaluation (probable prostate biopsy) could be indicated in 13.5%, 9.8%, and 5.4% of the men comprising our study group, accordingly. PSA was measured for the first time in 27.9% of the study population.

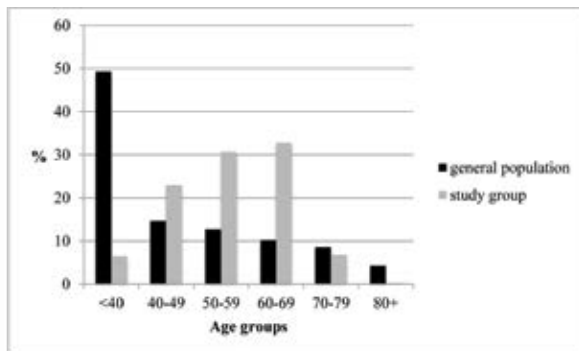
**Conclusions:** Although our study is not a cross - sectional one, it shows a favorable attitude of the Greek male population towards PSA testing since 72.1% of participants reported having a PSA test in the past. Free PSA testing attracts younger people than those participating in large, mass screening studies as well as a certain proportion of men undergoing testing without being appropriate candidates for screening according to contemporary guidelines. Although offering free prostate screening is a successful method of reaching men who might otherwise not be tested, parameters of men's knowledge, attitudes, and health beliefs and behaviors should be further exploited.

### Key words

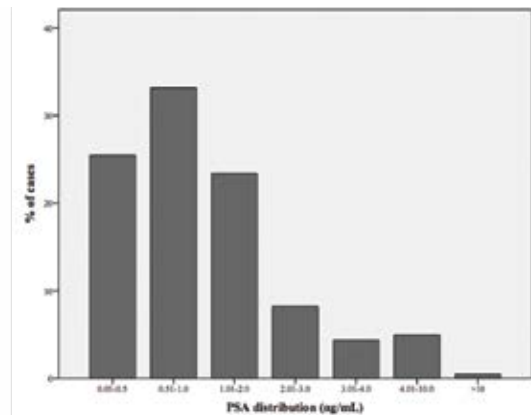
Prostatic specific antigen;  
screening;  
self - selected population

### Corresponding author:

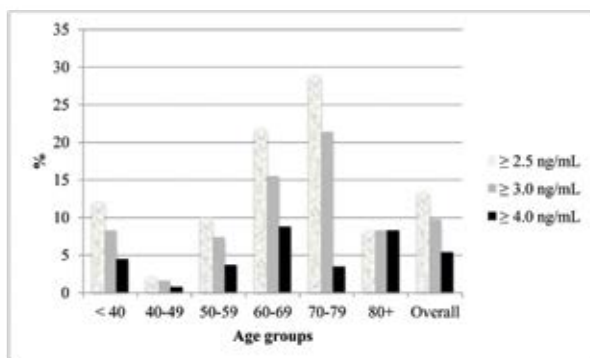
Georgios Vidakis, Iasonidou 37B, Elliniko, Attica, Greece, Tel.: +30 210 9647990, Fax: +30 210 9647990, E-mail: vidakis.georgios@iatrica.gr



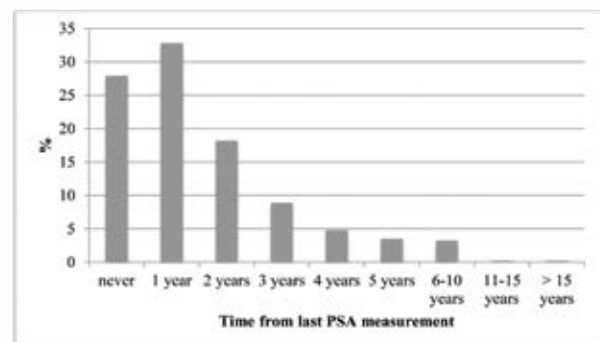
**Figure 1:** Distribution of age groups in our cohort (bars in gray); bars in black represent the distribution of the corresponding age groups in the population of males in Greece (Hellenic Statistical Authority, 2011 population census)



**Figure 2:** PSA distribution in the study group



**Figure 3:** Percentage of cases with PSA levels exceeding 2.5, 3.0, and 4.0 ng/mL



**Figure 4:** Distribution of study attendees by time from last PSA measurement

## Introduction

The prostate - specific antigen (PSA) test is a simple blood test measuring a natural protein produced by the prostate. Although mass and opportunistic prostate cancer screening with PSA is widespread<sup>1-3</sup>, PSA testing remains controversial. While it may lead to the detection of cancers at an earlier stage and a modest reduction of prostate cancer mortality<sup>4</sup>, it also carries a substantial risk for over - diagnosis and over - treatment<sup>5</sup>. As a result, most professional guidelines recommend an informed decision making for prostate cancer screening with PSA<sup>6</sup>. However, recent studies show low level of patient - provider communication<sup>7</sup> and variable effectiveness of decision aids for decision - making in clinical or community settings<sup>8</sup>. A community - or a nation - based intervention to promote informed decision making for prostate cancer screening with PSA should take into consideration patient, physician and system barriers. The annual Prostate Cancer Awareness Week is a form of such

an intervention giving the opportunity to assess the characteristics of those who take a PSA test on their own initiative.

## Materials and Methods

In 2014, a privately owned diagnostic laboratory offered a free PSA test during the Prostate Cancer Awareness Week. The offer was publicized through newspaper and television advertisements. All men assessed agreed to provide a brief urologic history including prior PSA screening. Men with known prostate cancer were excluded. Blood samples were analyzed using the Advia Centaur immunoassay system (Siemens, Germany). A spreadsheet containing all available information omitting patients' identification was then donated to the Hellenic Urological Association -the sponsor of Prostate Cancer Awareness Week - for further analysis and optimal exploitation. Analyses were conducted with SPSS software (Version 21.0).

TABLE 1

*Age specific mean PSA levels for US, European and Greek men without known prostate cancer*

Estimated mean PSA, ng/mL (95% CI)				
Age	NHANES*	Greek cohort	ERSPC**	PLCO
40 - 44	0.84 (0.75 - 0.92)	0.74 (0.68 - 0.81)		
45 - 49	1.00 (0.81 - 1.20)	0.81 (0.70 - 0.92)		
50 - 54	1.59 (1.08 - 2.09)	1.08 (0.98 - 1.19)		
55 - 59	1.30 (1.02 - 1.57)	1.34 (1.23 - 1.46)	1.28 to 1.70	1.64
60 - 64	1.49 (1.28 - 1.70)	1.63 (1.51 - 1.76)	1.75 to 2.87	1.80
65 - 69	1.89 (1.35 - 2.44)	1.86 (1.71 - 2.00)	2.48 to 3.06	2.18
70 - 74	2.37 (1.94 - 2.79)	2.41 (1.63 - 3.16)		
75 - 79	3.66 (2.87 - 4.43)	2.52 (1.37 - 3.67)		
80+	4.04 (3.05 - 5.03)	3.21 (1.29 - 7.71)		
Overall	1.56 (1.37 - 1.74)	1.39 (1.31 - 1.46)	1.7 to 3.3	1.90

\*NHANES, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, \*\*minimum and maximum values for different centers

## Results

The offer of a free PSA test attracted a total of 4,453 men. Although the test was by guidelines recommendation offered to men aged 50 to 75, men under and over that age range were also assessed. Men's age ranged from 37 to 91 years (mean  $57.1 \pm 8.9$  yrs). The majority was between 50 and 70 yrs while 24.7% were <50 yrs and 7.6% >70 yrs (Figure 1). PSA ranged from 0.01 to 109.4 ng/mL (mean  $1.38 \pm 2.31$  ng/mL). PSA distribution within the study cohort as well as by age group is shown in Table 1 and Figure 2. Although quite slight, mean PSA value increased significantly ( $p < 0.001$ ) by age with significant variations within the 70 to 74 and 80 to 84 age groups.

Depending on the cut - off value ( $\geq 2.5$ ,  $\geq 3.0$  or  $\geq 4.0$  ng/mL), a subsequent diagnostic evaluation (probable prostate biopsy) could be indicated in 13.5%, 9.8%, and 5.4% of the men comprising our study group, accordingly. Cases with PSA levels exceeding the cut - off values mentioned above were identified along all age groups (Figure 3).

Based on participants' statement, PSA was measured for the first time in 27.9% of the study population. The rest of them had a PSA measurement in the past 1 to 15 years (Figure 4).

## Discussion

Community - based free prostate cancer screening programs have helped in overcoming, among others, the financial constraints that could hinder seeking screening<sup>9,10</sup>. Prostate cancer awareness week during which prostate carcinoma screening with digital rectal examination and PSA testing is provided free or at low cost has become the largest screening program in USA since its inception in 1989 and has contributed to the early detection of prostate carcinoma and a shift in stage of disease at diagnosis<sup>11</sup>. The rates of PSA testing to detect prostate cancer vary significantly across countries. A USA population survey reported that 41% of men aged 50 or older reported having had a PSA test within the past year<sup>12</sup>. In Australia a cross sectional survey reported that 67% of family practice attendees aged 40 or older recalled having a PSA test in the past five years<sup>13</sup>. In comparison, in the United Kingdom, only 6% of men aged 45 - 89 in the family practice setting undergo testing each year<sup>14</sup>. Data as such are not available in Greece. Although our study is not a cross sectional survey, it may suggest a favorable attitude of the Greek male population towards PSA testing since 72.1% of our study participants reported having had a PSA test in the past. This is comparable to the percent-


age (72%) reported by those attending the East Harlem Partnership for Cancer Awareness free screening program<sup>10</sup>.

Patient characteristics including PSA kinetics and mean PSA values by age group are available only from large mass screening programs or community - based studies<sup>15,16</sup>. Mean age at entry was 60 yrs (range, 55 - 69) for the ERSPC (European Randomized Screening for Prostate Cancer) and 63.5 yrs (range, 55 - 74) for the PLCO (Prostate, Lung, Colorectal and Ovary cancer) trial<sup>15</sup>. Similarly, the mean age of those who accepted - upon invitation - to participate at the ProtecT (Prostate Testing for Cancer and Treatment) study in the United Kingdom was 62.3±4.8 (range, 50 - 70 yrs)<sup>17</sup>. Likewise, the mean age of the whites participating in the 1993 and 1994 Prostate Cancer Awareness Week was 61.4 yrs (range, 40 - 79 yrs)<sup>16</sup>. However, age of those attending other free prostate cancer screening programs seems to be different: ages spanned from 40 to 68 years with a mean age of 50 ± 7.4 yrs in a study from Southeastern United States<sup>9</sup>, from 34 to 86 years with a mean age of 58 years at the East Harlem Partnership for Cancer Awareness free screening program<sup>10</sup>, from 40 to 83 years with a mean age of 57.4 ± 10.1 in those attending a free prostate cancer screening program at an equal access tertiary care center in the USA<sup>18</sup>, and from 37 to 91 years with a mean age of 66.5 years in those offered prostate cancer screening in the Knoxville, Tennessee metropolitan area<sup>19</sup>. Age in our study cohort ranged from 37 to 91 years (mean 57.1 ± 8.9 yrs) indicating, in accordance to similar studies, that free PSA testing attracts younger people than those participating in large, mass screening studies. Another finding from our study and from those offering free PSA testing<sup>9,10,18,19</sup> is the proportion of men undergoing testing without being appropriate candidates for screening according to contemporary guidelines. The reasons for this might denote inappropriate knowledge or guidance about PSA testing and/or exaggerated anxiety and/or fear of prostate cancer; nevertheless, the phenomenon must be further exploited. The distribution of PSA values among men without known prostate cancer in the general male population seems to be no different among countries or even continents. Despite of not being a mass screening study, our cohort showed comparable characteristics to men from large cross - sectional surveys and screening trials (Table 1)<sup>15</sup>.

<sup>20</sup>. PSA values increase with age; the factors involved include increasing prostate volume, prostate infections, prostatic infarction, microscopic prostate cancer, and prostatic aging. Age - specific PSA reference ranges are a result of the increasing mean PSA and increasing PSA variance in successively older cohorts of men<sup>16</sup>.

“Normal” and “abnormal” PSA levels have haunted the scientific community from the 1980s. After several trials, a level of more than 4 ng/mL became the standard for prompting further diagnostic evaluation<sup>21</sup>. However, data from a large, multicenter trial showed that over 15% of men with PSA ≤ 4 ng/mL who undergo prostate biopsy may be found to have prostate cancer<sup>22</sup>. This has reignited the discussion over “normal” PSA levels and whether the threshold for prostate biopsy should be lowered despite of the concomitant lowering in specificity. In the ERSPC trial PSA cut - offs varied from 2.5 to 4.0 ng/mL while in the PLCO study it was set at 4.0 ng/mL<sup>15</sup>. The percentage of men with PSA levels ≥4.0 ng/mL in our study group was 5.4%; however it increased to 7.4% if men aged less than 55 and over 70 were excluded. The increased percentage of young men (< 40 years) with PSA levels ≥2.5 ng/mL (12.2%) can be attributed to contamination with possible prostatitis cases. In the ERSPC trial the corresponding percentage of men with PSA levels ≥4.0 ng/mL ranged from 8% in Finland and Spain to 13% in Belgium (1%, 12% and 8% for Italy, Portugal and Spain, respectively)<sup>15</sup>, while in the PLCO trial it was 7.9%<sup>23</sup>.

Despite the relatively high rates of opportunistic PSA testing worldwide, routine screening remains controversial given the results of a recent meta - analysis of its effect on mortality<sup>4</sup>. Nevertheless, prior to undertaking PSA testing, a number of risks and benefits should be disclosed to patients<sup>24</sup>; consequently, shared decision - making is recommended by all major urological societies<sup>6</sup>. Prior research has, however, shown poor knowledge of the risks and benefits of PSA testing among men reporting having received a PSA test in the past<sup>13,25</sup>.

Although offering free prostate screening is a successful method of reaching men who might otherwise not be tested<sup>10</sup>, they may also attract men who are not candidates for screening or have an incomplete or inaccurate knowledge of prostate cancer. Parameters of men’s knowledge, attitudes, and health beliefs and behaviors should be further exploited as they could assist in the design of educational interventions. 

## Περίληψη

**Σκοπός:** Ο προσδιορισμός του PSA στο αίμα χρησιμοποιείται στον προσυμπτωματικό έλεγχο του προστατικού καρκίνου τόσο μαζικά όσο και ευκαιρικά. Δυστυχώς δεν έχει μέχρι τώρα γίνει μία διερεύνηση των υπέρ και των κατά όσον αφορά το τεστ και τη συμπεριφορά των αθενών σε σχέση με τον προσυμπτωματικό έλεγχο. Σκοπός της μελέτης είναι η διερεύνηση των δημογραφικών χαρακτηριστικών και της διανομής του PSA σε έναν αυτοεπιλεγμένο πληθυσμό κατά την εβδομάδα επίγνωσης του προστατικού καρκίνου, που έλαβε χώρα το 2014.

**Μέθοδος:** Η μελέτη συμπεριέλαβε 4.453 άνδρες, οι οποίοι υποβλήθηκαν οικειοθελώς σε δωρεάν προσδιορισμό του PSA αίματος. Όλοι παρείχαν δημογραφικά στοιχεία, καθώς και στοιχεία σε σχέση με τα LUTS, προηγούμενες τιμές PSA, καθώς και προηγούμενες ουρολογικές εξετάσεις.

**Αποτελέσματα:** Η ηλικία των ανδρών κυμάνθηκε από 37 έως 91 έτη (μέση  $57,1 \pm 8,9$  έτη). Η πλειψηφία ήταν μεταξύ 50 και 70 ετών, ενώ 24,7% ήταν < 50 ετών και 7,6% > 70 ετών. Το PSA κυμάνθηκε από 0,01 έως 109,4 ng/ml (μέση τιμή  $1,38 \pm 2,31$  ng/ml). Ανάλογα με το όριο ( $\geq 2,5 \geq 3,0$  ή  $\geq 4,0$  ng/ml), ένδειξη για βιοψία προέκυψε σε 13,5%, 9,8% και 5,4% των ανδρών. Το PSA μετρήθηκε για πρώτη φορά στο 27,9% του πληθυσμού της μελέτης.


**Συμπέρασμα:** Ο ελληνικός ανδρικός πληθυσμός δείχνει μια θετική στάση στον προσυμπτωματικό έλεγχο του προστατικού καρκίνου με τον προσδιορισμό του PSA. Επιβάλλεται η περαιτέρω διερεύνηση των πρακτικών, συνηθειών και συμπεριφορών των ανδρών όσον αφορά τον προσυμπτωματικό έλεγχο.

**Λέξεις  
ευρετηριασμού**  
ειδικό προστατικό  
αντιγόνο,  
προσυμπτωματικός  
έλεγχος, αυτο-  
επιλεγμένος πληθυσμός

## References

- Farwell WR, Linder JA, Jha AK. Trends in prostate - specific antigen testing from 1995 through 2004. Arch Intern Med 2007; 167: 2497 - 2502.
- Ross LE, Berkowitz Z, Ekwueme DU. Use of the prostate - specific antigen test among U.S. men: findings from the 2005 national health interview survey. Cancer Epidem Biomar 2008; 17: 636 - 644.
- Scales Jr CD, Antonelli J, Curtis LH, Schulman KA, Moul JW. Prostate - specific antigen screening among young men in the United States. Cancer 2008; 113: 1315 - 1323.
- Ilic D, Neuberger MM, Djulbegovic M, Dahm P. Screening for prostate cancer. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2013 Jan 31; 1: CD004720. doi:10.1002/14651858.CD004720.pub3.
- Dahm P, Neuberger M, Ilic D. Screening for prostate cancer: shaping the debate on benefits and harms. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2013 Sep 16; 9: ED000067. doi:org/10.1002/14651858.ED000067.
- Loeb S. Guideline of guidelines: prostate cancer screening. BJU Int. 2014; 114: 323 - 325.
- Bhuyan SS, Chandak A, Gupta N, Isharwal S, LaGrange C, Mahmood A, Gentry D. Patient - Provider Communication About Prostate Cancer Screening and Treatment: New Evidence From the Health Information National Trends Survey. Am J Mens Health. 2015 Nov 26. pii: 1557988315614082. [Epub ahead of print]
- Ilic D, Jammal W, Chiarelli P, Gardiner RA, Hughes S, Stefanovic D, Chambers SK. Assessing the effectiveness of decision aids for decision making in prostate cancer testing: a systematic review. Psychooncology. 2015; 24: 1303 - 1315.
- Weinrich SP, Weinrich MC, Priest J, Fodi C. Self - reported reasons men decide not to participate in free prostate cancer screening. Oncol Nurs Forum 2003; 30: E12 - 16.
- Jandorf L, Chang MS, Smith K, Florio A, Hall SJ. Community - based free prostate cancer screening program. Prog Community Health Partnersh. 2007; 1: 215 - 20.
- DeAntoni EP. Eight years of «Prostate Cancer Awareness Week»: lessons in screening and early detection. Prostate Cancer Education Council. Cancer. 1997; 80: 1845 - 1851.
- Swan J, Breen N, Graubard BI, McNeel TS, Blackman D, Tangka FK, Ballard - Barbash R. Data and trends in cancer screening in the United States: results from the 2005 National Health Interview Survey. Cancer. 2010; 116(20): 4872 - 4881.



- 
13. Carey M, Bryant J, Yoong SL, Russell G, Barker D, Sanson - Fisher R. Prostate specific antigen testing in family practice: a cross sectional survey of self - reported rates of and reasons for testing participation and risk disclosure. *BMC Fam Pract.* 2013; 14: 186.
  14. Williams N, Hughes LJ, Turner EL, Donovan JL, Hamdy FC, Neal DE, Martin RM, Metcalfe C. Prostate - specific antigen testing rates remain low in UK general practice: across - sectional study in six English cities. *BJU Int.* 2011;108:1402 - 1408.
  15. de Koning HJ, Auvinen A, Berenguer Sanchez A, Calais da Silva F, Ciatto S, Denis L, Gohagan JK, Hakama M, Hugosson J, Kranse R, Nelen V, Prorok PC, Schröder FH. Large - scale randomized prostate cancer screening trials: program performances in the European Randomized Screening for Prostate Cancer trial and the Prostate, Lung, Colorectal and Ovary cancer trial. *Int J Cancer.* 2002; 97: 237 - 244.
  16. DeAntoni EP, Crawford ED, Oesterling JE, Ross CA, Berger ER, McLeod DG, Staggers F, Stone NN. Age - and race - specific reference ranges for prostate - specific antigen from a large community - based study. *Urology.* 1996; 48:234 - 239.
  17. Lane JA, Hamdy FC, Martin RM, Turner EL, Neal DE, Donovan JL. Latest results from the UK trials evaluating prostate cancer screening and treatment: the CAP and ProtecT studies. *Eur J Cancer.* 2010; 46:3095 - 3101.
  18. Soderdahl DW, Hernandez J. Prostate cancer screening at an equal access tertiary care center: its impact 10 years after the introduction of PSA. *Prostate Cancer Prostatic Dis* 2002; 5:32 - 35.
  19. Moss J, Heidel E, Johnson J, Powell C, Dittrich E, Rawn S, Terry PD, Goldman M, Waters WB, White WM. Ability of community - based prostate cancer screening to target an appropriate and underserved population. *World J Methodol.* 2015; 5:10 - 12.
  20. Porter MP, Stanford JL, Lange PH. The distribution of serum prostate - specific antigen levels among American men: implications for prostate cancer prevalence and screening. *Prostate.* 2006; 66: 1044 - 1051.
  21. Catalona W, Smith D, RatliV T, Dodds KM, Coplen DE, Yuan JJJ, Petros JA, Andriole GL (1991) Measurement of prostate - specific antigen in serum as a screening test for prostate cancer. *N Engl J Med* 324: 1156 - 1161.
  22. ThompsonIM,PaulerDK,GoodmanPJ,TangenCM,LuciaMS, Parnes HL, Minasian LM, Ford LG, Lippman SM, Crawford ED, Crowley JJ, Coltman CA Jr. Prevalence of prostate cancer among men with a prostate - specific antigen level < or 1/44.0 ng per milliliter. *N Engl J Med* 2004; 350: 2239 - 2246.
  23. Andriole GL, Levin DL, Crawford ED, Gelmann EP, Pinsky PF, Chia D, Kramer BS, Reding D, Church TR, Grubb RL, Izmirlian G, Ragard LR, Clapp JD, Prorok PC, Gohagan JK; PLCO Project Team. Prostate Cancer Screening in the Prostate, Lung, Colorectal and Ovarian (PLCO) Cancer Screening Trial: findings from the initial screening round of a randomized trial. *J Natl Cancer Inst.* 2005; 97: 433 - 438.
  24. Marshall KG. Screening for prostate cancer: how can patients give informed consent? *Can Fam Physician* 1993; 39: 2385 - 2390.
  25. Han PKJ, Coates RJ, Uhler RJ, Breen N. Decision making in prostate - specific antigen screening: national health interview survey, 2000. *Am J Prev Med.* 2006; 14:394 - 404.

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Management of anastomotic strictures after radical retropubic prostatectomy

Nikolaos Kostakopoulos, Vassilios Argiropoulos, Panagiotis Tekerlekis, Athanassios Kostakopoulos  
*The IASO General hospital, Athens Greece*

## Abstract

**Objective:** To examine the incidence, management and outcome of anastomotic strictures after bladder - neck sparing radical retropubic prostatectomy (RRP).

**Patients and methods:** We retrospectively reviewed 445 consecutive patients (mean age 62 years, range 49 - 72) who had open radical retro pubic prostatectomy by one surgeon between 2004 - 2014.

**Results:** The mean follow - up was 32 (8 - 48) months. 28 (6,2%) patients developed an anastomotic stricture. Dilatation of the stricture was an effective treatment.

**Conclusion:** Stricture of the vesico - urethral anastomosis after bladder - neck sparing RRP is not a rare complication, but can usually be successfully managed with one graduated dilatation.

## Introduction

Bladder neck stricture is a well recognized complication after radical prostatectomy reportedly occurring in 0.4 - 32%<sup>1-3</sup>. It is usually the result of scar tissue encircling and narrowing the reconfigured bladder neck. The constriction of bladder neck may result in symptoms of urinary frequency, urgency, poor stream and incomplete emptying of the bladder. Sometimes urinary retention may develop. The objective of the present study was to examine the incidence, the management and outcome of vesico - urethral anastomotic strictures after bladder - neck and nerve - sparing open retropubic radical prostatectomy.

## Patients and methods

We retrospectively reviewed 445 consecutive patients

(mean age 62 years, range 49 - 72) who had open radical retropubic prostatectomy (RRP) by one surgeon for clinically localized prostate cancer, during the period 2004 - 2014. The operative technique of RRP was similar to that described by Walsh and Mostwin<sup>1</sup>. The prostate and seminal vesicles were removed through an horizontal abdominal incision with as much bladder neck preserved as feasible, according to individual circumstances. The bladder neck was reconstructed with mucosal eversion and a vesico - urethral anastomosis fashioned over a 20 F catheter using four absorbable anastomotic sutures (polyglactin 3%).

One suction drain was left in situ after RRP. The urethral catheter was left indwelling for 12 days. Patients were reviewed every 3 months for the first year by

## Key words

prostate cancer;  
radical prostatectomy;  
anastomotic stricture;  
management

## Corresponding author:

Vassilios Argiropoulos, IASO General hospital, Mesogion St. Athens, Greece, E - mail: argvas@otenet.gr

**TABLE 1** *The Incidence of bladder neck strictures in reported series of RRP since 1980*

Ref.	Year of publication	No - of patients	% stricture
(5)	1980	36	6
(6)	1981	50	6
(7)	1983	75	3
(8)	1987	150	1.3
(9)	1989	100	9
(3)	1990	156	11.5
(10)	1992	620	0.5
(2)	1996	135	12.6
(11)	1996	81	4.9
(1)	1998	239	15
(15)	2004	510	9.4
Present	2006	445	6.2

PSA assay and an enquiry about urinary symptoms. Anastomotic strictures were generally managed by dilatation using sounds up to 26F. After dilatations a 16F urethral catheter was left in situ for  $\approx$  12hours. Patients who developed recurrent acute urinary retention had a transurethral incision under general anesthesia.

### Results

The mean (range) follow - up was 32 (8 - 48) months, during which 28 patients (6,2%) developed some degree of bladder neck contracture. The contracture occurred within 3 months of surgery in 20 patients (71,4%), at 4 - 12 months in 4 (14,3%) and at >12months in 4 (14,3%). In addition, five men (17,8%) required transurethral incision. All patients eventually stabilized and voided well with a normal flow. At 1 year 96% of men were pad - free and only two reported that incontinence was a serious problem. After the transurethral incision two patients had to use pads for 4 months during the day only. The remaining patients were completely dry.

### Discussion

The reported incidence of bladder neck stricture after open RRP (0,4 - 32%) probably depends on the surgical technique and patient - related factors, including the

presence or absence of previous surgery of the prostate (**table 1**)<sup>1,2,3,5 - 11</sup>.

The cause of bladder neck stricture after open RRP is probably multifactorial in most cases and to date the fundamental mechanisms have not been well defined. The factors that might contribute, include the technique of bladder neck reconstruction, postoperative urinary extravasation, previous transurethral or simple retropubic prostatectomy, the duration of catheterization after RP, overzealous diathermy for hemostasis of the bladder neck and previous radiotherapy treatment. In our series, none of the patients developed a local recurrence that could have contributed to pour urinary flow. However, two patients had had a previous radiotherapy as part of the management for positive surgical margins. Also three patients had had a previous simple prostatectomy, which potentially could have made bladder neck stricture more likely because of fibrotic changes in the periprostatic tissue and bladder neck<sup>3,15</sup>.

Probably the bladder neck stricture is the result of failure of accurate apposition of the bladder neck to the urethral mucosa, especially posteriorly, where it may sometimes be technically difficult to achieve perfect urethra - vesical continuity<sup>15</sup>. In this location there is possibility of a gap remaining between epithelial surfaces, which eventually heals with fibrous



tissue formation. A well - vascularized, watertight suture line is obviously ideal for optimal healing of the anastomosis<sup>12</sup>.


Excessive blood loss during the operation or hematoma formation soon after RRP might potentially compromise the vascular supply to the urethra and bladder neck. The number and the location of the anastomotic leakage, which could lead to subsequent fibrosis and scarring<sup>3</sup>. However, an over - tight bladder neck reconstruction may increase the chance of subsequent stricture.

In our patients the drain was removed the third post-surgical day in all cases, suggesting that extravasation was not a contributing risk factor for anastomotic stricture. We also applied the technique of bladder - neck sparing, assuming that preserving the bladder neck might result in an earlier return of continence and reduce the number of anastomotic strictures without compromising surgical margins<sup>13</sup>.

We believe that the dilatation of stricture is the best management which has the minimal risk of urinary incontinence<sup>15</sup>. The outcome after dilatation of the stricture probably depends on the length, thickness and location of the stricture, as well as on the interval be-

tween the original surgery and stricture development. The cold - Knife incision of the stricture alone is effective in only 62%<sup>3</sup>.

Moreover, incising the stricture results in urinary incontinence almost in all patients. Reconstructive surgery is very seldom required to resolve persistent bladder neck obstruction<sup>14</sup>. All our patients were managed with a graduated dilatation without jeopardizing urinary continence. Dilatation (sounds, bongies, balloon catheter), stricture incision (over a guide wire) or resections have all been proposed for treatment and should be effective. It is important to counsel patients before radical prostatectomy about the potential risk of bladder neck stricture. As they have been well informed in advance is easy to explain the necessity of dilatation of it is required.

In conclusion, stricture of the vesico - urethral anastomosis after bladder - neck sparing RRP is not a rare complication, but can usually be successfully managed with one graduated dilatation. All patients seemed to be stabilized satisfactorily without recourse to more extensive surgical procedures. Patients should be informed of the possibility of stricture before and after surgery. 

## Περίληψη

**Σκοπός:** Η διερεύνηση της επίπτωσης, της αντιμετώπισης και των αποτελεσμάτων των αναστομωτικών στενωμάτων μετά από ριζική προστατεκτομή (ΡΠ) με διατήρηση του αυχένα της ουροδόχου κύστης.

**Μέθοδος:** Αναδρομική μελέτη 445 ασθενών (μέση ηλικία 62 έτη, εύρος 49 - 72), οι οποίοι υποβλήθηκαν σε ανοιχτή οπισθοβική ριζική προστατεκτομή από έναν χειρουργό από το 2001 έως το 2014.

**Αποτελέσματα:** Η μέση διάρκεια παρακολούθησης ήταν 32 (8 - 48) μήνες. 28 (6,2%) ασθενείς ανέπτυξαν αναστομωτικό στένωμα. Η διαστολή του στενώματος ήταν μία επιτυχής αντιμετώπιση.

**Συμπέρασμα:** Το αναστομωτικό στένωμα μετά από ΡΠ με διατήρηση του αυχένα της ουροδόχου κύστης δεν είναι μία σπάνια επιπλοκή, αλλά μπορεί να αντιμετωπισθεί επιτυχώς με διαστολή.



### Λέξεις ευρετηριασμού

προστατικός καρκίνος,  
ριζική προστατεκτομή,  
αναστομωτικό στένωμα,  
αντιμετώπιση

## References

1. Gerullis H, Quast S, Eimer C, Bagner JW, Otto T. Sphincter lesions after radical prostatectomy - evaluation and classification. *J Endourol.* 2011 Jun;25(6):1075 - 80. doi: 10.1089/end.2010.0581. Epub 2011 May 13. PubMed PMID: 21568754.
2. Mazaris EM, Chatzidarellis E, Varkarakis IM, Dellis A, Deliveliotis C. Reducing the number of sutures for vesicourethral anastomosis in radical retropubic prostatectomy. *Int Braz J Urol.* 2009 Mar - Apr;35(2):158 - 63. PubMed PMID: 19409119.
3. Hayashi T, Yoshinaga A, Ohno R, Ishii N, Watanabe T, Yamada T, Kihara K. Successful treatment of recurrent vesicourethral stricture after radical prostatectomy with holmium laser: report of three cases. *Int J Urol.* 2005 Apr;12(4):414 - 6. PubMed PMID: 15948734.
4. Maffezzini M, Seveso M, Taverna G, Giusti G, Benetti A, Graziotti P. Evaluation of complications and results in a contemporary series of 300 consecutive radical retropubic prostatectomies with the anatomic approach at a single institution. *Urology.* 2003 May;61(5):982 - 6. PubMed PMID: 12736020.
5. Kochakarn W, Ratana - Olarn K, Viseshsindh V. Vesicourethral strictures after radical prostatectomy: review of treatment and outcome. *J Med Assoc Thai.* 2002 Jan;85(1):63 - 6. PubMed PMID: 12075722.
6. Fujisawa M, Higuchi A, Gotoh A, Matsui T, Hara I, Gohji K, Okada H, Arakawa S, Kamidono S. Outcome of precise vesicourethral anastomosis following retropubic radical prostatectomy using a Foley catheter. *Int J Urol.* 1999 Feb;6(2):75 - 7. PubMed PMID: 10226811.
7. Levy JB, Ramchandani P, Berlin JW, Broderick GA, Wein AJ. Vesicourethral healing following radical prostatectomy: is it related to surgical approach? *Urology.* 1994 Dec;44(6):888 - 92. PubMed PMID: 7985317.
8. Ramchandani P, Banner MP, Berlin JW, Dannenbaum MS, Wein AJ. Vesicourethral anastomotic strictures after radical prostatectomy: efficacy of transurethral balloon dilation. *Radiology.* 1994 Nov;193(2):345 - 9. PubMed PMID: 7972741.
9. Kampanga M, Dahmani F, Hakami F, Devoldere G, Abourachid H. [Stenosis of the vesico - urethral anastomosis. Our experience with 114 radical prostatectomies]. *Prog Urol.* 1994 Oct;4(5):683 - 7. Review. French. PubMed PMID: 7858629.
10. Berlin JW, Ramchandani P, Banner MP, Pollack HM, Nodine CF, Wein AJ. Voiding cystourethrography after radical prostatectomy: normal findings and correlation between contrast extravasation and anastomotic strictures. *AJR Am J Roentgenol.* 1994 Jan;162(1):87 - 91. PubMed PMID: 8273697.
11. Lange PH, Reddy PK. Technical nuances and surgical results of radical retropubic prostatectomy in 150 patients. *J Urol.* 1987 Aug;138(2):348 - 52. PubMed PMID: 3599253.
12. van Roermund JG, van Basten JP, Kiemeney LA, Karthaus HF, Witjes JA. Impact of obesity on surgical outcomes following open radical prostatectomy. *Urol Int.* 2009;82(3):256 - 61. doi: 10.1159/000209353. Epub 2009 May 11. PubMed PMID: 19440009.
13. Ouzaid I, Xylinas E, Ploussard G, Hoznek A, Vordos D, Abbou CC, de la Taille A, Salomon L. Anastomotic stricture after minimally invasive radical prostatectomy: what should be expected from the Van Velthoven single - knot running suture? *J Endourol.* 2012 Aug;26(8):1020 - 5. doi: 10.1089/end.2011.0650. Epub 2012 May 8. PubMed PMID: 22486229.
14. Tan G, Srivastava A, Grover S, Peters D, Dorsey P Jr, Scott A, Jhaveri J, Tilki D, Te A, Tewari A. Optimizing vesicourethral anastomosis healing after robot - assisted laparoscopic radical prostatectomy: lessons learned from three techniques in 1900 patients. *J Endourol.* 2010 Dec;24(12):1975 - 83. doi: 10.1089/end.2009.0630. Epub 2010 Oct 25. PubMed PMID: 20973740.
15. Kuyumcuoglu U, Eryildirim B, Tarhan F, Faydaci G, Ozgül A, Erbay E. Antegrade endourethroplasty with free skin graft for recurrent vesicourethral anastomotic strictures after radical prostatectomy. *J Endourol.* 2010 Jan;24(1):63 - 7. doi: 10.1089/end.2009.0076. PubMed PMID: 19929411.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Evaluation of two novel urodynamic parameters in the diagnosis of female obstructive voiding

Kostas Vaios Mytilekas, Eleni Ioannidou, Marina Kalaitzi, Evangelos Ioannidis, Apostolos Apostolidis  
2nd Department of Urology, Aristoteles University of Thessaloniki, Greece

## Abstract

**Introduction:** The Blaivas-Groutz nomogram for female bladder outlet obstruction (fBOO) has received a lot of criticism concerning its diagnostic accuracy, especially in the zone of mild obstruction. Our purpose was to compare the diagnostic value of two novel urodynamic parameters, the  $PdetQ_{max} \geq 2 Q_{max}$  (equivocal  $BOOI = PdetQ_{max} - 2Q_{max} \geq 0$ ) and the urethral resistance factor  $URA \geq 20$ .

**Material-Study:** Females with mild BOO according to B-G nomogram were divided into three groups. Group A ( $BOOI < 0$ ), Group B ( $BOOI \geq 0$  and  $URA < 20$ ) and Group C ( $BOOI \geq 0 + URA \geq 20$ ). Uroflow and pressure flow parameters were compared between those three groups of females. Females with totally dysfunctional abdominal urination, without any detrusor's contraction or without urinary flow during P-F study, were excluded from the study.

One way ANOVA, unpaired two tailed t test and fishers exact two tailed test were used for statistical analysis.

**Results:** Sixty three females fulfill our inclusion criteria. Those were categorized as non obstructive (Group A,  $n=14$ ) as obstructive only with  $BOOI \geq 0$  (Group B,  $n=23$ ) and as obstructive with both  $BOOI \geq 0 + URA \geq 20$  (Group C,  $n=26$ ). According to one way ANOVA test, statistically significant differences between those three groups were found for: f-PVR (Post Void Residual during uroflow,  $p=0.005$ ), f-BVE (Bladder Voiding Efficiency during uroflow,  $p=0.001$ ),  $Q_{max}$  (maximum flow during pressure flow study,  $p<0.0001$ )  $Pdet_{max}$  (maximum detrusor pressure,  $p=0.01$ ),

$PdetQ_{max}$  (detrusor's pressure during maximum flow,  $p=0.002$ ) and of course  $BOOI$  (Bladder Outlet Obstruction Index,  $p<0.0001$ ). The proposed  $PdetQ_{max} \geq 2 Q_{max}$  ( $= BOOI \geq 0$ ) agreed with the overall diagnosis of mild obstruction according to the B-G nomogram in 77.78% ( $n=49/63$ ) of cases while the proposed  $URA \geq 20$  only in 41.27% ( $n=26/63$ ) (Fishers exact test  $p<0.0001$ ). As it was expected, based on the high percentage of agreement, none uroflow parameter where found to be statistically significant different between mild obstructive females according to B-G nomogram ( $n=63$ ) and the obstructive females according to  $PdetQ_{max} \geq 2Q_{max}$  ( $n=49$ ). On the contrary, f-BVE was found to be statistically significant different between the B-G mild obstructive ( $n=63$ ) and the  $URA \geq 20$  ( $n=26$ ) obstructive females (67.58 % vs 52.54%, unpaired two tailed t test = 0.017).  $PdetQ_{max}$  (29.87 vs

36.69, unpaired two tailed t test  $p=0.0085$ ) and  $Q_{max}$  during P-F study (10.57 vs 6.69,  $p=0.0015$ ) were found to be statistically significant different during the direct comparison between Groups B and C, respectively. Finally, we found that from the total 37 females with incomplete bladder emptying during uroflow (f-BVE < 80%), 62.2%, 21.6% and 16.2% were already categorized in groups C, B and A, respectively.

**Conclusion:** According to our results, we recommend the use of  $URA$  cut off value 20 instead of  $PdetQ_{max} \geq 2Q_{max}$  as a second more strict urodynamic parameter especially in the grey (mild) zone of female BOO.

### Key words

Urodynamic study;  
female bladder outlet  
obstruction

### Corresponding author:

Apostolidis Apostolos, Tel.: +30 6944529898, E-mail: zefxis@yahoo.co.uk

	f-PVR (ml)	f-Qmax (ml/sec)	f-BVE (%)	f-VV (ml)	f-BC (ml)
Group A	59.43	19.30	77.47	202.36	276.97
Group B	74.62	15.61	78.56%	226.83	286.25
Group C	181.76	13.35	52.54	166.35	344.26
ANOVA	p=0.005	p=0.059	p=0.001	p=0.216	p=0.4

	PdetQmax (cm H2O)	Qmax (ml/sec)	Pdetmax (cm H2O)	BOOI	BCI
Group A	26.71	19.14	36.14	-12.77	122.43
Group B	29.87	10.57	41.74	8.65	82.70
Group C	36.69	6.69	46.58	23.31	70.15
ANOVA	p=0.002	p<0.0001	p=0.01	p<0.0001	p<0.0001

## Introduction

Despite the sufficient number of UDS parameters, indexes and nomograms for the diagnosis of urodynamic obstruction in males, only limited and not generally accepted parameters are being proposed for defining female BOO. Subjective urodynamic definition of obstructed voiding in females with voiding symptoms (reduced flow, hesitancy, sensation of incomplete bladder emptying, difficulty voiding) is not yet generally established<sup>1</sup>. The Blaivas - Groutz nomogram is probably the most simple and generally used nomogram for female BOO. However this nomogram has received a lot of criticism as it concerns its sensitivity and specificity, with a trend to overestimate BOO, especially in the zone of mild obstruction<sup>2,3</sup>.

Our purpose was to compare the diagnostic value of two novel urodynamic parameters, which both was presented during the annual 2014 European Association of Urology (EAU) Congress, at Stockholm. The PdetQmax  $\geq$  2 Qmax (4) (equivocal Bladder Outlet Obstruction Index, BOOI = PdetQmax - 2Qmax  $\geq$  0) and the Urethral Resistance Factor, URA  $\geq$  20 (5). Both of them were retrospectively evaluated in a cohort of females with mild BOO according to the Blaivas - Groutz nomogram.

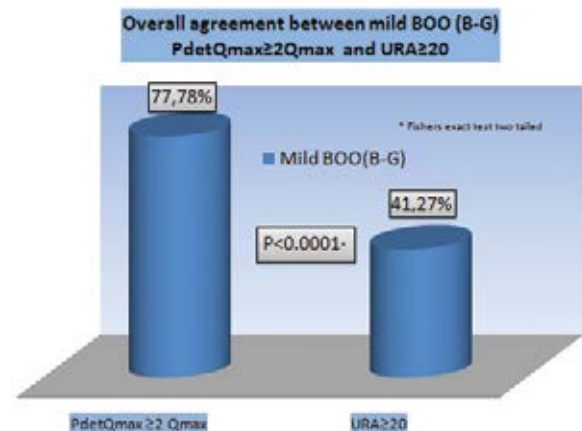


Figure 1. Overall agreement (FBOO) between mild BOO (B-G) and BOOI  $\geq$  0 and URA  $\geq$  20

## Material - Methods

Females with urodynamic evaluation of refractory lower urinary tract symptoms (r - FLUTS) which were already categorized as mild obstructed according to the B - G nomogram, were retrospectively reviewed. Females with totally abdominal voiding, without any detrusor's contraction or without urinary flow during P - F study, were excluded from the study. Exclusion criteria were also the history of neurogenic bladder, any obvious bladder pathology or a prior lower urinary tract system reconstruction intervention. Those

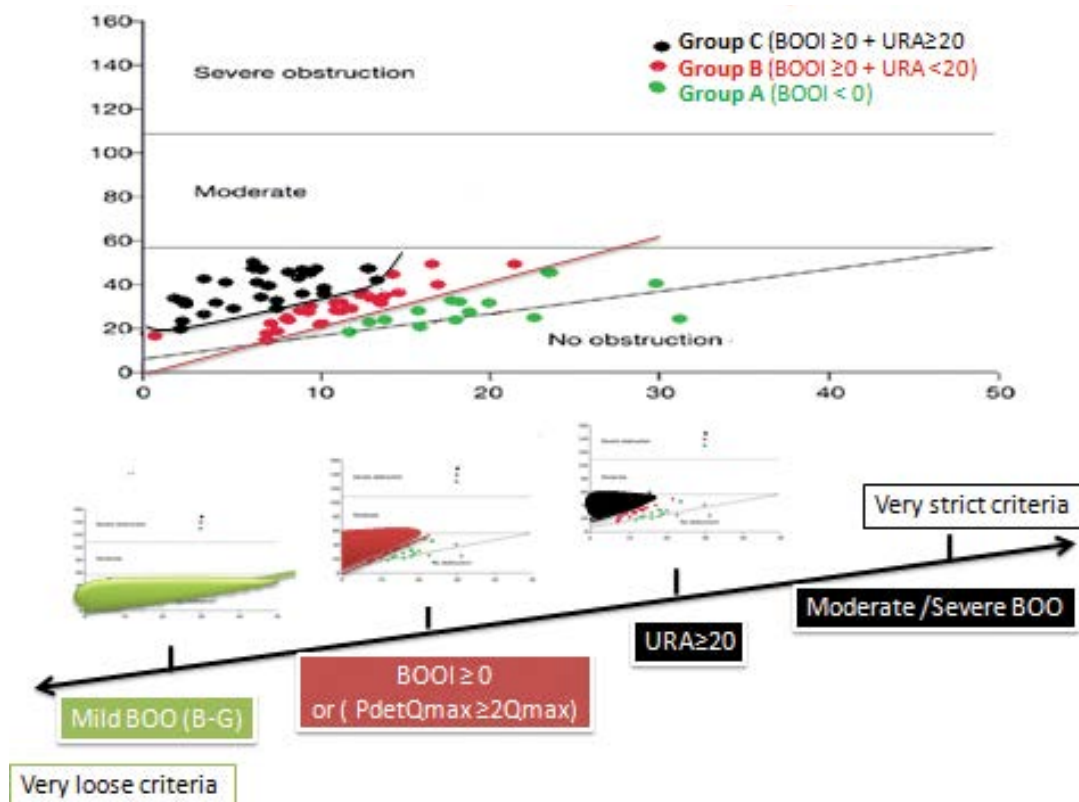


Figure 2. PdetQmax and Qmax from P-F study, plotted to the B-G nomogram. Proposed chart flow from very loose to very strict definition of F-BOO

females with mild BOO according to B - G nomogram which finally included to the study were further divided into three groups of patients. Those with bladder outlet obstruction index (BOOI ) below zero (Group A), those with both BOOI equal or above zero and urethral resistance factor, (URA) below 20 (Group B) and finally those with both BOOI equal or above zero and URA equal or above 20 (Group C). Group A were conventionally defined as non obstructive and was used as a control group for our study. Uroflow and pressure flow parameters were compared between those three groups of females and a number of correlations were made. One way ANOVA , two tailed unpaired t test and two tailed fishers exact test were used for statistical analysis .

## Results

Sixty three females were fulfilled our inclusion criteria. Those were categorized as non obstructive (Group A, n=14) as obstructive only with BOOI ≥ 0(Group B, n=23) and as obstructive with both BOOI ≥ 0 + URA ≥ 20 (Group C, n=26). According to one way ANOVA test, statistically significant differences between those three groups were found for: f - PVR(Post Void Residual during uro-

flow, p=0.005), f - BVE (Bladder Voiding Efficiency during uroflow, p=0.001), Qmax (maximum flow during pressure flow study, p<0.0001) Pdetmax (maximum detrusor pressure, p=0.01), PdetQmax (detrusor's pressure during maximum flow, p=0.002) and of course as it was expected for BOOI (Bladder Outlet Obstruction Index, p<0.0001), (Table 1a and 1b). The proposed  $PdetQmax \geq 2 Qmax$  (= BOOI≥0) agreed with the diagnosis of mild obstruction according to B - G nomogram in 77.78% (n=49/63) of cases while the proposed  $URA \geq 20$  only in 41.27% (n=26/63) (Fishers exact test two tailed, p<0.0001), (figure 1). As it was expected, based on the high percentage of agreement, none uroflow parameter where found to be statistically significant different between mild obstructive females according to B - G nomogram (n=63) and the obstructive females according to  $PdetQmax \geq 2Qmax$  (n=49) (Table 2a). On the contrary, f - BVE was found to be statistically significant different between the B - G mild obstructive (n=63) and the  $URA \geq 20$  (n=26) obstructive females (67.58 % vs 52.54%, unpaired two tailed t test=0.017), (Table 2b). PdetQmax (29.87 vs 36.69, unpaired two tailed t test p=0.0085) and Qmax during P - F study (10.57 vs 6.69, p=0.0015) were found to be statistically significant different during the direct comparison



<b>TABLE 2A</b> <i>Not statistical significant different uroflow parameters between mild BOO, according to B-G nomogram and the proposed PdetQmax ≥ 2Qmax (BOOI ≥ 0)</i>			
	Mild BOO(B-G) (n=63)	PdetQmax ≥ 2 Qmax (n=49)	Unpaired t test Two tailed
<b>f-Qmax (ml/sec)</b>	15.505(sd:7.599)	14.418(sd:5.704)	0.4060
<b>f-VV (ml)</b>	196.43(sd:120.8)	194.73(sd:123.62)	0.9420
<b>f-PVR (ml)</b>	113.295(sd:144.527)	124.345(sd:154.324)	0.6976
<b>f-BVE (%)</b>	67.5832(sd:27.33)	64.7571(sd:26.9919)	0.5855
<b>f-BC (ml)</b>	308.137(sd:177.09)	317.039(sd:183.062)	0.7953

<b>TABLE 2B</b> <i>Uroflow parameters between mild obstructive, according to B-G nomogram and the URA cut off value of 20</i>			
	Mild BOO(B-G) (n=63)	URA ≥ 20 (n=26)	Unpaired t test Two tailed
<b>f-Qmax(ml/sec)</b>	15.505(sd:7.599)	13.358(sd:5.148)	0.1906
<b>f-VV(ml)</b>	196.43(sd:120.8)	166.35(sd:110.20)	0.2765
<b>f-PVR(ml)</b>	113.295(sd:144.527)	181.769(sd:187.864)	0.0667
<b>BVE(%)</b>	67.5832(sd:27.33)	52.54(sd:24.61)	0.017
<b>f-BC(ml)</b>	308.137(sd:177.09)	344.27(sd:214.56)	0.4134

<b>TABLE 3</b> <i>Pressure flow statistical differences between groups B (PdetQmax ≥ 2Qmax + URA &lt; 20) and C (PdetQmax ≥ 2Qmax + URA ≥ 20)</i>			
	Group B (n=23) (BOOI ≥ 0 + URA < 20)	Group C (n=26) (BOOI ≥ 0 + URA ≥ 20)	Unpaired t test
<b>PdetQmax</b>	29.87(sd:9.5)	36.69(sd:7.89)	0.0085
<b>Qmax</b>	10.57(sd:4.9)	6.69(sd:3.04)	0.0015
<b>Pdetmax</b>	41.74(sd:14.27)	46.58(sd:5.6)	0.1171
<b>BCI</b>	82.70(sd:32.36)	70.15(sd:19)	<b>0.1001</b>
<b>BOOI</b>	8.65(sd:6.46)	23.31(sd:8.52)	0.0001

between Groups B and C, respectively, (**Table 3**). By plotting the PdetQmax and Qmax from pressure flow study to the Blaivas - Groutz nomogram we constructed, based on four urodynamic parameters (Pdetmax, f-Qmax, PdetQmax, and Qmax) a modified B - G nomogram with surprisingly three distinct zones of the mild BOO zone. (**figure 2**).

## Discussion

According to the most recently published definitions of the International Continence Society (ICS) and the Inter-

national Urogynecological Association (IUGA) there is not a definitive urodynamic definition for female outflow obstruction<sup>6</sup>. Additionally, the definition of detrusor underactivity (DU) according to the ICS, is at least partially quite general both for males and females. Incomplete bladder emptying it is in a constant correlation between the detrusor's contraction (isometric and isotonic) and the outflow resistance (active and passive). In both genders, pathologic post void residual after urination should be considered to be due detrusor's insuff-

iciency only when bladder outlet obstruction has been excluded. Without a generally accepted definition of female obstructive voiding, it is also not possible to define with accuracy female Detrusor Underactivity (DU) and the urodynamic diagnosis of obstruction versus underactivity will be partially objective and operative physicians depended, especially in the equivocal cases. Therefore, it is urgently needed for the international medical community to define a number of more strict urodynamic parameters for increased outflow resistance (anatomic or functional), especially at females.

Females with symptom of voiding difficulty probably represents an heterogeneous patients population. According to Nitti et al., only 29%(n=76) of females with non neurogenic voiding dysfunction had been diagnosed with outflow obstruction. while the rest 71% (n=184) was not obstructed during videourodynamic evaluation<sup>7</sup>. According to Gomez MC et al., in elderly patients lower urinary tract, symptoms suggestive of BOO frequently have other than outflow obstruction pathophysiology. Even females may have obstructive symptoms although they are not obstructive<sup>8</sup>. Lowenstein L et al., came to the same conclusion in a more recent published study<sup>9</sup>.

As already mentioned, there are no generally accepted urodynamic criteria for the definition of BOO at females. Different cut off values from pressure flow study parameters, with different sensitivity and specificity has been proposed<sup>10, 11, 12, 13</sup>. There are also limited published data about the diagnostic value of Urethral Resistant Factor (URA) in the diagnosis of female BOO. Kransé R. and van Maastricht proposed the idea of relative obstruction not only for males but also for females using a new urodynamic parameter (URA/W20)<sup>14</sup>. According to Méndez - Rubio S. et al., after videourodynamic evaluation of 88 females with significant PVR, positive linear correlation was found between PVR and the URA parameter ( $p=0.001$ ) and between PVR and voiding with abdominal straining ( $p<0.05$ )<sup>15</sup>. Incomplete bladder emptying at females was also associated with increased urethral resistance (URA parameter) according to Salinas JC et al.<sup>16</sup>. According to Vírseada Chamorro M. et al. the only urodynamic parameter which showed statistically significant correlation with voiding dysfunction and the PVR in 80 females (24 controls with a maximum flow percentile greater than or equal to 50 and no residual volume, and 56 cases

with a maximum flow percentile less than or equal to 10) was the URA<sup>17</sup>. Even less studied in the diagnosis of female BOO, is the BOOI. Quite interesting and groundbreaking was the study of Gravina G et al.<sup>18</sup>. According to their results, the BOOI cut - off  $>$  or  $= - 8$  provides a sensitivity of 80.8% and specificity of 86.1%. On the other hand, the proposed BOOI cut off value 0 as proposed by Solomon et al.<sup>4</sup> separates the radiographically obstructed and unobstructed with 0.94 sensitivity and 0.93 specificity. According to our material the BOOI with the cut off value - 8 and the cut off value 0 had an 95.23% (n=60/63) and 77.8% overall agreement with the mild BOO according to B - G. It is obvious that both of those different cut of values of BOOI are not enough to "make the difference" in order to increase the overall sensitivity and specificity of the mild BOO zone and subsequently there is no reason to be combined with the B - G nomogram.

According to the "title" of wisdom "Detrusor contractility - order out of chaos" by Griffiths D<sup>19</sup> it seems a little bit easier and wiser for both functional urologists and gynecologists to be sustained focused primarily in an afford to find a generally accepted and definitive urodynamic diagnosis of female BOO. Then the approximation of DU diagnosis will be mainly a diagnosis by exclusion, based basically on repeatedly and reproducibly incomplete bladder emptying during uroflow. As Aganovitz et al.<sup>20</sup> proposed the use of URA cut off value 29 in those equivocal cases of male BOO in order to define "clear" BOO, we respectively recommend the use of the same parameter but with a lower cut off value ( $URA \geq 20$ ) in order to approximate the "clear" obstructive females, especially in the grey (mild) zone of female BOO. The parabolic area of the mild zone of BOO, as it was defined in our study by the  $URA \geq 20$  (Group C, **figure 3**), it seems to concentrate less probabilities for wrong diagnosis of obstruction compared to the other two distinct areas of the same zone. Based on voiding dynamics proposed by Schäfer w., it is also our opinion that the non parabolic urodynamic parameters are less precise than the parabolic parameters, because they do not take into account the detrusor's contribution to the flow rate adjusted to the different bladder capacity, at each voiding<sup>21</sup>.


Our proposed cataract from very loose to very strict urodynamic criteria of female BOO are also showed in **figure 3**. It is always a matter of personal choice how strict or how loose criteria wants a researcher or a phy-

sician for a study or for the real's - life daytime medical practice. Unfortunately that makes data and articles a little bit objective and physicians depended especially in the "grey" zones of medicine.

Limitations of our study is the retrospective nature and the relatively small number of females with mild BOO . Functional or anatomic increased outlet resistance was not the primary point of our study. A larger ,prospectively designed and multicenter study is considered necessary in order to validate the sensitivity and specificity of the mild BOO zone and the URA combination.

### Conclusion

The grey zone of female BOO, the mild BOO according to B - G, represents an heterogeneous group of females .We recommend the use of URA cut - off val-

ue 20 as a second more strict urodynamic parameter for the differential diagnosis of female BOO especially in those cases of physicians' disagreement, the grey (mild) zone of female BOO of the Blaivas - Groutz nomogram. We recommend the URA cut off value 20 especially in this group of patients in an afford to increase the diagnostic accuracy of female BOO and indirect the diagnosis of female underactive bladder. 

### Conflict of interest:

EAU 10th South Eastern European Meeting (SEEM) 24 - 26 October 2014, Belgrade, Serbia. Berlin - Chemie Best Poster Awards 1st Prize (1000 euros) - K. Mytilekas, et al., "Evaluation of two novel urodynamic parameters in the diagnosis of female obstructive voiding" (Thessaloniki, Greece).

## Περίληψη

Σκοπός της παρούσας αναδρομικής μελέτης ήταν η αξιολόγηση δύο προτεινόμενων ουροδυναμικών παραμέτρων στην διάγνωση της γκρίζας ζώνης της αποφρακτικής ούρησης στις γυναίκες, της ήπιας αποφρακτικής ούρησης κατά το νομόγραμμα των Blaivas - Groutz (B - G) . Οι τιμές των παραμέτρων BOOI  $\geq 0$  και URA  $\geq 20$  ως διαγνωστικά κριτήρια υποकुστικής απόφραξης αξιολογήθηκαν μεταξύ τους, με ουροδυνα-

μικά κριτήρια. Σύμφωνα με τα αποτελέσματα της αναδρομικής μελέτης, η προσθήκη της παραμέτρου URA  $\geq 20$  φαίνεται να διευκολύνει περισσότερο τον λειτουργικό ουρολόγο, στην ουροδυναμική διάγνωση της υποकुστικής απόφραξης, ειδικά στις αμφίβολες περιπτώσεις της ήπιας απόφραξης κατά το νομόγραμμα B - G, περισσότερο από ότι η προσθήκη της παραμέτρου BOOI  $\geq 0$ .



**Λέξεις  
ευρετηριασμού**  
ουροδυναμικός έλεγχος,  
γυναικεία απόφραξη  
कुστικού αυχένα

## References

1. Groutz A, Blaivas JG. Non - neurogenic female voiding dysfunction. *Curr Opin Urol.* 2002 Jul;12(4):311 - 6.
2. Virseda Chamorro, Miguel; Salinas Casado, Jesus; Adot Zurbano, Jose Maria; Martin Garcia, Carlos; Puede sustituir el nomograma de Blaivas y Groutz a los estudios videourodinamicos en el diagnostico de la obstruccion del tracto urinario inferior en la mujer? *Arch Esp Urol.* 2006 Jul - Aug;59(6):601 - 6.
3. J.Akikwalatv, Fleischman N, Nittiv W. Comparison of diagnostic criteria for female bladder outlet obstruction. *Urol.* 2006Nov;176(5):20937
4. Solomon E., Rashid T.G., Jenks J.C., Pakzad M., Hamid R., Shah P. J.R., Ockrim J.L., Greenwell T.J. The development and validation a new nomogram for diagnosing bladder outlet obstruction in women. Extended abstract presentation, 29th Annual EAU Congress, Stockholm, Sweden
5. Mytilekas K.V., Oeconomou A., Sokolakis I., Ioannidou E., Kalaitzi M., Apostolidis A. Defining voiding problems in women: Bladder outlet obstruction versus detrusor underactivity. Extended abstract presentation, 29th Annual EAU Congress, Stockholm, Sweden
6. Bernard T. Haylen, Dirk De Ridder, Robert M. Freeman, Steven E. Swift, Bary Berghmans Joseph Lee, Ash Monga, Eckhard Petri,

- Diia E. Rizk, Peter K. Sand, Gabriel N. Schaer. An International Urogynecological Association (IUGA) /International Continence Society (ICS) Joint Report on the Terminology for Female Pelvic Floor Dysfunction. *Neurourology and Urodynamics* 29:4 - 20 (2010)
7. Vw Nitti, Lm Tu, J Gitlin. Diagnosing bladder outlet obstruction in women *J Urol.* 1999 May ;161 (5):1535 - 40
  8. Gomes Cm, Arap S, Trigo - Rocha Fe. Voiding dysfunction and urodynamic abnormalities in elderly patients. *Rev Hosp Clin Fac Med Sao Paulo.* 2004 Aug;59(4):206 - 15.
  9. Lowenstein L, Anderson C, Kenton K, Dooley Y, Brubaker L. Obstructive voiding symptoms are not predictive of elevated post-void residual urine volumes. *Int Urogynecol J Pelvic Floor Dysfunct.* 2008 Jun;19(6):801 - 4.
  10. S Chassagne, P A Bernier, F Haab, C G Roehrborn, J S Reisch, P E Zimmern Proposed cutoff values to define bladder outlet obstruction in women. *Urology.* 1998 Mar ;51 (3):408 - 11
  11. Choi YS1, Kim JC, Lee KS, Seo JT, Kim HJ, Yoo TK, Lee JB, Choo MS, Lee JG, Lee JY. Analysis of female voiding dysfunction: a prospective, multi - center study. *Int Urol Nephrol.* 2013 Aug;45(4):989 - 94.
  12. Lemack GE, Zimmern PE. Pressure flow analysis may aid in identifying women with outflow obstruction. *J Urol.* 2000;163:1823 - 1828.
  13. Defreitas GA, Zimmern PE, Lemack GE, Shariat SF. Refining diagnosis of anatomic female bladder outlet obstruction: Comparison of pressure - flow study parameters in clinically obstructed women with those of normal controls. *Urology.* 2004;64:675 - 9.
  14. Kranse R, Van Mastrigt R. Relative bladder outlet obstruction *J Urol.* 2002 Aug;168(2):565 - 70.
  15. Méndez - Rubio S, Chiarelli L, Salinas - Casado J, Cano S, Virseda - Chamorro M, Ramírez JC, Campanario F, Silmi - moyano A. ["Post micturition residual; urodynamic"]. *Actas Urol Esp.* 2010 Apr;34(4):365 - 71 Article in Spanish
  16. Salinas Casado J, Adot Zurbano JM, Dambros M, Virseda Chamorro M, Ramírez Fernández JC, Moreno Sierra J, Marcos Díaz J, Silmi Moyano A. Factors for voiding dysfunction and cystocele *Arch Esp Urol.* 2005 May;58(4):316 - 23.
  17. Virseda Chamorro M, Teba Del Pino F, Salinas Casado J, Fernández Lucas C, Arredondo Martínez F. Pressure - flow studies in the diagnosis of micturition disorders in the female *Arch Esp Urol.* 1998 Dec;51(10):1021 - 8.
  18. Gravina G, Mariagrazia Costam A, Ronchi P, Galatioto GP, Luana G, Vicentini C Bladder Outlet Obstruction Index and Maximal Flow Rate During Urodynamic Study as Powerful Predictors for the Detection of Urodynamic Obstruction in Women. *Neurourology and Urodynamics.* 2007;26:247 - 253.
  19. Griffiths D. Detrusor Contractility - - Order Out Of Chaos. *Scand J Urol Nephrol Suppl.* 2004;(215):93 - 100.
  20. Aganovic D. The urodynamic nomogram in defining the degree of obstruction in patients with benign prostatic enlargement - defining clear obstruction. *MedArt.* 2003;57(2):81 - 6.
  21. Schäfer W . Principles and clinical application of advanced urodynamic analysis of voiding function. *Urol Clin North Am.* 1990 Aug;17(3):553 - 66.

## CASE REPORT

# Spontaneous abscess of the corpus cavernosum

Georgios Zervopoulos, Konstantinos Bouropoulos, Athanasios Argyropoulos, Iraklis Poulias  
*Department of Urology, Hellenic Red Cross Hospital "Korgialeneio - Benakeio", Athens, Greece*

## Abstract

Corpus cavernosum abscesses are very rare. They have been associated with intracavernosal injection therapy, foreign bodies, perineal abscesses extension, priapism and bloodstream seed-

ing from another primary site. We report a case of an abscess of the corpus cavernosum in a 69 year old diabetic patient and discuss the management and the complications.

## Introduction

Abscess of the corpus cavernosum is an uncommon infection. Only 23 cases have been reported in the literature<sup>1</sup>. Precipitating factors include intracavernous injection therapy, foreign bodies, perianal abscess extension, priapism and bloodstream seeding from another primary site<sup>1</sup>. Diabetes is a major risk factor for cavernosal abscess due to the presence of microvascular disease and the relative immune system suppression. The causative organisms are Staphylococcus aureus, Streptococci, Enterococci, Bacteroides, Neisseria gonorrhoea, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, Escherichia coli, Klebsiella and Actinomyces<sup>1,2</sup>. We present a case of corpus cavernosum abscess in a diabetic patient who was treated with surgical drainage and antibiotics.

## Case Report

A 69 year old patient was presented in the emergency department with urinary irritative and obstructive symptoms and fever to 39.5 °C. He was diabetic and the remaining history was unremarkable. Digital rectal examination demonstrated an enlarged non ten-

der prostate. Mild penile swelling at the right base was observed with induration and tenderness along the right penile shaft. From the laboratory tests there was a leucocytosis (25,5x10<sup>9</sup>/ml) with polymorphonuclear type and a C - Reactive Protein (CRP) of 187. The rest of blood investigations were normal. The urinalysis was normal as well. He underwent a CT scan which showed an abscess in the corpus cavernosum with dimensions 7.2x2.5x5 cm (**figure 1**).

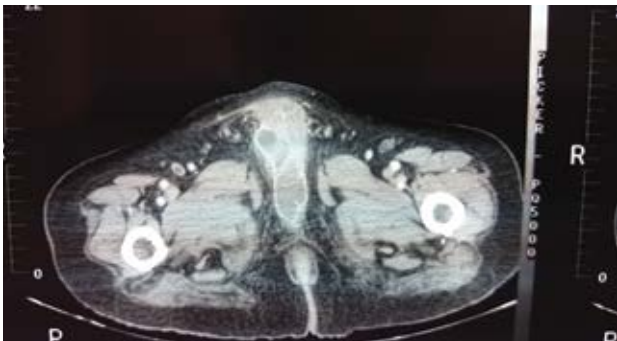
The decision for surgical drainage was taken. We placed a suprapubic cystostomy tube and we did a midline perineal incision and the abscess was drained and irrigated (**figure 2**). We left a penrose drain inside the corpus cavernosum and the trauma was left open to heal by secondary intention. There was no significant haemorrhage from the cavernosal body. In the surgical management we followed the similar principles with Fournier's gangrene. We did extensive debridement of all the necrotic and infected tissue. The culture from the purulent drainage revealed Enterococcus faecalis sp. and meropenem was prescribed according to the sensitivity test.

## Key words

corpus cavernosum;  
cavernosal abscess

## Corresponding author:

Konstantinos Bouropoulos, Hellenic Red Cross Hospital "Korgialeneio - Benakeio" Department of Urology, Athanasaki 1, 11526, Athens, E-mail: cbourop@gmail.com



**Figure 1.** CT scan which demonstrates an abscess of the right corpus cavernosum



**Figure 2.** Purulent drainage from the right corpus cavernosum

## Discussion

Spontaneous cavernosal abscess has been described as an abscess without an identifiable underlying cause<sup>2</sup>. In previous reports of spontaneous cavernosal abscesses, attempts have been made to identify an underlying cause as an infection from the overlying skin, external trauma, and hematogenous spread with subsequent seeding of the cavernosa<sup>3</sup>. Some authors reported on a patient in whom oral pathogens were isolated from the culture of the cavernosa with coexistence of a periodontal abscess<sup>4</sup>. Tuzer E., reported a spontaneous corpus cavernosum abscess in a healthy man using long term androgenic anabolic steroids<sup>5</sup>. These drugs has been considered to be immunosuppressive. In our patient the overlying skin was clearly

uninvolved in the infection and there was no evidence to suggest an occult traumatic event leading to secondary infection. *Enterococcus faecalis* sp. is known to inhabit the gastrointestinal tract but it can cause significant distant infections under appropriate conditions.

Corpus cavernosal abscesses are also associated to diabetes mellitus (25% of the cases) and other forms of immunosuppression or use of steroid drugs<sup>1</sup>. The most common presenting symptoms were penile pain and swelling. Overall in one third of the the cases the abscesses were bilateral<sup>1</sup>. Clinical manifestations may vary from painless penile volume increase and tumefaction, which can be confused with priapism to potentially fatal septic conditions.


Ultrasound of the corpora is the most widely used and displays hypoechogenic, heterogeneous zones with no Doppler signal in their interior. CT scan provides the presence of gas and fluid inside the corpus.

Some authors reported that the most common etiologic agent is *E. Coli* followed by *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* in patients with previous history of sexually transmitted diseases<sup>6</sup>. Other authors reported that the most common causative organisms were *S. Aureus* (25%), *Streptococci* (21%), *Fusibacteria*(13%) and *Bacteroids* (13%)<sup>1</sup>.

Standard treatment consists of drainage via incision, followed by broad - spectrum antibiotics. Postoperative drainage has been obtained with open packing, penrose drains as well as closed suction drains. The most commonly possible complications include poor erectile function, secondary fibrosis leading to penile deviation or abscess recurrence, although most patients regain normal anatomical and erectile function<sup>1</sup>. These postoperative complications can be managed by implantation of penile prosthesis or surgical intervention to correct the penile deviation. In our case the patient has reported sexual dysfunction before the operation.

According to some authors less invasive interventional techniques may offer a lower risk for long term sequelae. Thanos L et al., described a case of a cavernosal abscess that was successfully treated with CT guided aspiration and pigtail catheter placement as well as broad spectrum antibiotics<sup>7</sup>. The procedure was performed under local anesthesia with minimal trauma to the corpus cavernosum. They reported complete resolution of the abscess with no result-

ant erectile dysfunction. Some authors reported that three weeks after the initial operation one patient developed a recurrent abscess with methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and a total penectomy was performed<sup>8</sup>. Other authors also reported abscess resolution with single aspiration and systemic antibiotics<sup>9</sup>. Estimating the risk of cavernosal fibrosis and abscess recurrence with incomplete evacuation of the abscess, incision and drainage remains the mainstay of therapy.

In conclusion abscess of the corpus cavernosum is a rare infection that is frequently idiopathic. It may be a result of intracavernosal injection therapy, perineal abscess extension and septic metastases. It should be suspected in the differential diagnosis in patients with penile swelling and well established risk factors such as diabetes, immunosuppression, instrumentation and chronic infection. Surgical drainage is the effective treatment of choice but carries a substantial risk of erectile dysfunction and penile deviation. 

## Περίληψη

Τα αποστήματα των σπραγγών είναι πολύ σπάνια. Έχουν συσχετισθεί με θεραπεία με ενδοσπραγγώδεις ενέσεις, ξένα σώματα, επέκταση από αποστήματα του περινέου, πριαπισμό και αιματογενή διασπορά από άλλη πρωτοπαθή εστία. Παρουσιάζουμε μία περίπτωση αποστήματος σπραγγώδους σε ασθενή 69 ετών και συζητάμε την θεραπεία και τις επιπλοκές.

**Λέξεις  
ευρητηριασμού**  
σπραγγώδες σώμα,  
απόστημα σπραγγώδους

## References

1. Dugdale CM, Tompkins AJ, Reece RM, Gardner AF: Cavernosal Abscess due to *Streptococcus Anginosus*. A case report and Comprehensive Review of the Literature. *Cur Urol* 2013;7:51 - 56.
2. Sagar J, Sagar B, Shack D.K. Spontaneous penile (cavernosal) abscess: case report with discussion of aetiology, diagnosis and management with review of literature. *The Scient World Journal* 2004;5:39 - 41.
3. Kumar S, Sharma KM, Goswami AK: Spontaneous bacterial abscess of corpus cavernosum: case report. *Ind J Urol* 2004;20:66 - 67.
4. Pearle MS, Wendel EF. Necrotizing cavernositis secondary to periodontal abscess. *J Urol* 1993;149:1137 - 1138.
5. Tuzel E: Spontaneous Corpus Cavernosum Abscess in a Healthy Man Using Long - Term Androgenic Steroids. *World J Mens Health* 2015;33(1):36 - 38.
6. Gadu CJ, Luis TJ, Antonio SL, Melchor CM, Efrain FJ, Cesar LJ, et al. Abscess of the corpora cavernosa. *Rev Mex Urol* 2012;72(2): 79 - 83.
7. Thanos L, Tsagouli P, Eukarpidis T, Mpoura K, Kelekis D. Computed tomography guided drainage of a corpus cavernosum abscess: a minimally invasive successful treatment. *Card Interv Rad* 2011;34:217 - 219.
8. Bradley N, Slobodov G, Culkin D, Blake P: Spontaneous Bilateral Cavernosal Abscess. *Br J Urol Int*, DOI: 10.1002/BJUlw - 2012 - 023 - web.
9. Moskovitz B, Vardi Y, Pery M, Bolkier M, Levin DR: Abscess of corpus cavernosum. *Urol Int* 1992;48:433 - 440.

## CASE REPORT

# Combined minimal invasive methods for renal angiomyolipomas treatment

Konstantinos N. Stamatiou<sup>1</sup>, Hippocrates Moschouris<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Urology, Tzaneio General Hospital of Piraeus

<sup>2</sup> Department of Radiology, Tzaneio General Hospital of Piraeus

## Abstract

Angiomyolipomas are composed of variable amounts of three components: blood vessels (angioid), smooth muscle (myoid) and mature fat (lipoid) components and consists the most common benign non cystic renal lesion. Most of AML cases are found incidentally when the kidneys are imaged for other reasons. However they do have the risk of rupture with bleeding or secondary damage of surrounding structures as they grow. The risk of bleeding and surrounding tissue damage is proportional to the size of the lesion (>4 cm diameter). Other symptoms and signs include palpable mass, flank pain, urinary tract infections, haematuria, renal failure, or hypertension. AMLs found in-

### Key words

**embolism;  
radiofrequency ablation;  
angiomyolipoma;  
solitary kidney**

cidently are usually small and so require no therapy. Lesions that present with retroperitoneal haemorrhage often require emergency embolization as a life saving measure.

Preventing treatment for larger AMLs, or those that have been symptomatic, include tumor resection or partial nephrectomy or selective arterial embolization. Although it is considered effective in preventing hemorrhage, the last seems less efficient in reducing AML regrowth risk especially in patients with multiple or

large AMLs. Here we discuss the combination of selective arterial embolism and radiofrequency ablation in the treatment of giant renal angiomyolipomas.

## Introduction

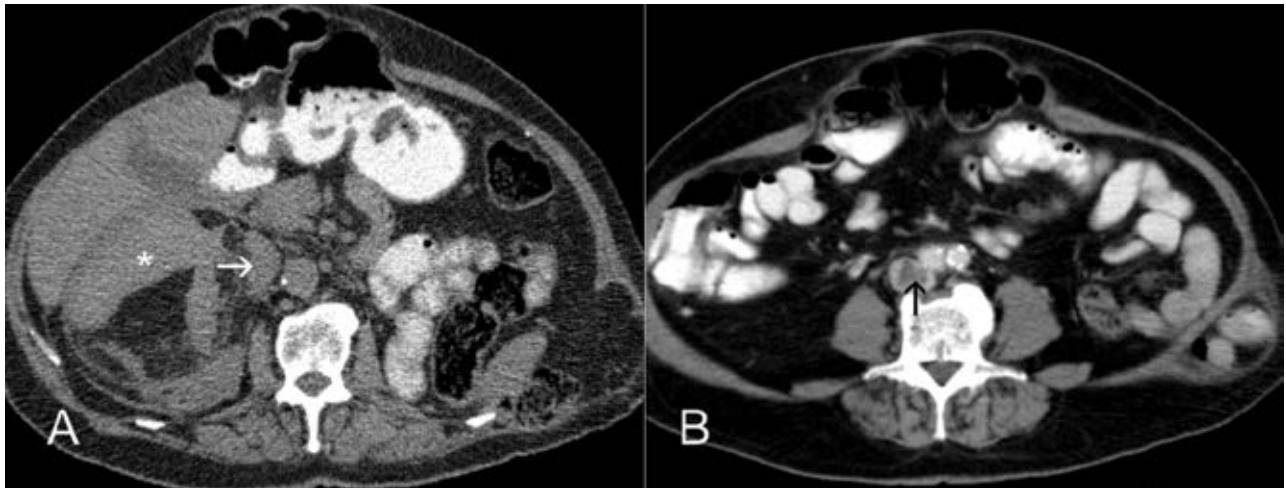
Angiomyolipomas (AMLs) have been classified among the perivascular epithelioid cells tumour group (PEComas). They are composed of variable amounts of three components: blood vessels (angioid), smooth muscle (myoid) and mature fat (lipoid) components. AMLs consists the most common benign non cystic renal lesion. The liver is the second most frequent site<sup>1</sup>. Two types have been described: the sporadic and multiple. The first occurs as a single tumour in one kidney. It accounts for 80% of renal AMLs and it is typically identi-

fied in adults, with a strong female predilection. The second occurs as larger tumour and/or multiple tumours in both kidneys and accounts for 20% of renal AMLs. It affects both sexes at a younger age than sporadic AML. It is seen in association with neuro-ocular-cutaneous disorders such as tuberous sclerosis, Von Hippel-Lindau syndrome and neurofibromatosis type 1. AMLs are benign and usually asymptomatic. In fact, most of AML cases are found incidentally when the kidneys are imaged for other reasons however they do have the risk of rupture with bleeding or

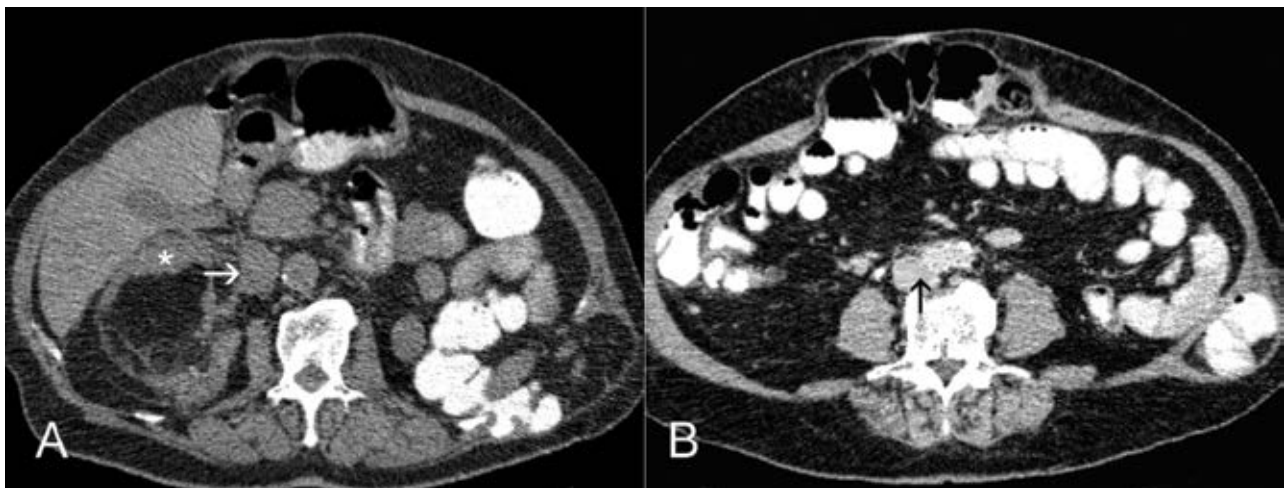
### Corresponding author:

Dr. Konstantinos N. Stamatiou, Tzaneio General Hospital, 1 Afendouli Ave., PC 18536, Piraeus, Attica - Greece, E-mail: stamatiouk@gmail.com





**Figure 1.** Axial CT images prior to intervention. (A) Unenhanced image shows the typical appearance of a large angiomyolipoma with fat and soft-tissue (\*) densities. The mass compresses the inferior vena cava (arrow). (B) Contrast-enhanced image (venous phase) shows a thrombus causing an enhancement defect (arrow) at the lowest part of the inferior vena cava



**Figure 2.** Axial CT images post embolization and ablation. (A) Unenhanced image shows that the angiomyolipoma is smaller, with relative shrinkage of the soft-tissue component (\*) in favor of the fat. The compression of the IVC is now less striking. (B) Contrast-enhanced image (venous phase) shows complete resolution of the caval thrombus (arrow)

secondary damage of surrounding structures as they grow. The risk of bleeding and surrounding tissue damage is proportional to the size of the lesion (>4 cm diameter). Other symptoms and signs include palpable mass, flank pain, urinary tract infections, haematuria, renal failure, or hypertension. AMLs found incidentally are usually small and so require no therapy<sup>2</sup>. Lesions that present with retroperitoneal haemorrhage often require emergency embolization as a life saving measure. Preventing treatment for larger AMLs, or those that have been symptomatic, include tumor resection or partial nephrectomy or selective arterial embolization. Although it is considered effective in preventing

hemorrhage, the last seems less efficient in reducing AML regrowth risk especially in patients with multiple or large AMLs.

### Case Presentation

A 78 y.o. patient with known AMLs on the left kidney, history of right nephrectomy due to mass renal haemorrhage caused by spontaneous rupture of a large pelvic AML and mild renal and cardiac insufficiency, was referred to the emergency department for abdominal pain, weakness, light-headedness and shortness of breath. Clinical symptoms and decreased haematocrit were suggestive for internal haemorrhage. In the



ultrasound, fluid accumulation in the perirenal space and a 5 cm nodular hyperechoic lesion in the left kidney suggested a heterogeneous AML and probable haemorrhage. Radiological investigation confirmed the above findings and showed that haemorrhage was limited to the perirenal space. Despite transfusion and intravenous fluid replacement blood loss wasn't stopped and therefore patient underwent selective arterial embolism. Patient was haemodynamically stabilised and none of the usual complications of arterial embolism occurred except a slight increase of body temperature. Upon follow up visit, no tumor regression was detected. Moreover, the tumor was found in close proximity to inferior vena cava where a thrombus of 1,5 cm in diameter was developed. The caval thrombus was treated with anticoagulant (warfarin in an average maintenance dose of 5 mg on the first and second days for an INR value in the range of 2.0 to 3.0). Since anticoagulant treatment had proved ineffective ten months later, it was decided to definitely manage the patient. A combined interventional treatment (consisted of a second selective arterial embolism session along with radiofrequency ablation of the AML plus conservative management of inferior vena cava thrombus) was decided. Transarterial embolization was performed first. Superselective approach was achieved and embolization was performed with tightly calibrated microspheres (Embozene, Celonova) with diameters of 250 and 400 micrometers. Post-embolization angiogram showed devascularisation of the AML and no signs of renal infarction. Radiofrequency ablation (with the use of radiofrequency electrode Jet-Tip, RF Medical Co) was applied 20 days later. The procedure was monitored ultrasonographically, and no complications were observed. The patient received intravenous hydration and antibiotics and was discharged the following day. Anticoagulation treatment was for continued for 2 more months. Upon follow up evaluation, AML size was reduced with relative shrinkage of the soft-tissue component in favor of the fat. The compression of the inferior vena cava was less striking while the caval thrombus was completely resolved.

## Discussion

Management of symptomatic AMLs can be problematic in patients not suitable for surgery<sup>3</sup>. Moreover, nephron preservation is essential for patients with

impaired renal function and remain a key treatment consideration in many other patients (eg those with tuberose sclerosis complex and those who can have multiple, bilateral and very large AMLs). In these cases interventional radiology techniques can provide an alternative approach. In our case treatment intentions were both to decrease the risk of haemorrhage recurrence and decrease tumor size -and thus to facilitate the resolution of IVC thrombus- with the minimal effect on the renal function. Given the general health condition our patient and the fact that the thrombus was not actually resulted from vascular spread from the AML to the inferior vena cava, interventional radiology treatment was preferred instead of nephron-sparing surgery plus caval thrombectomy.

Selective arterial embolization of renal AMLs is currently uniformly performed to prevent hemorrhage in patients with AMLs larger than 4 cm. Although several studies have shown a low incidence of recurrence after embolization, this is true only for isolated renal AMLs<sup>4,5</sup>. In fact, patients with multiple AMLs and patients with tuberous sclerosis and Von Hippel-Lindau syndrome as well, suffer of recurrences after embolotherapy<sup>6</sup>. Moreover, while regular selective embolotherapy can reduce the tumor size, there is a danger of non-target embolization. On the other hand, superselective embolization guarantees minimal tissue loss<sup>7</sup> however it may be ineffective both in the prevention of recurrences and tumor size reduction<sup>3</sup>. Of note, the true long term recurrence rate is currently unknown and depends of the number of coexisting AMLs<sup>8</sup>.


Radiofrequency ablation therapy (RFA) was proposed as an alternative to angio-embolization and nephron-sparing surgery for AML treatment. In fact, focused RFA is a nephron-sparing treatment option since destroys only the solid and vascular elements of the tumor, without encroaching on any normal renal tissue<sup>9</sup>. The efficacy of RFA against AML was proven in a small number of cases and mainly for small, growing AMLs<sup>10</sup>: Castle et al., treated successfully 15 cases of small renal AMLs. They report a low complication rate (13.3%) and no radiographic recurrences at a mean follow-up of 21 months<sup>11</sup>. It should be mentioned that tumors -especially large- could not be significantly reduced after RFA and thus treatment may be misinterpreted as failed. Actually even when no change in overall tumor volume on follow-up radiological im-

aging occur, in most of the cases the tumors became fattier with involution of the soft-tissue elements (decrease in mean soft tissue-to-total tumor ratio) Further evidence of treatment effect is the development of a visible capsule around the ablation zone<sup>12</sup>. Gregory et al., treated four large AMLs (maximal axis 6.1-32.4 cm). They report no complications and significant decrease in mean soft tissue-to-total tumor ratio during a minimum 48-month period. Prevo et al., however, report a decrease in tumor size from 4.5 cm to 2.9 cm at 12 months after RFA of a sporadic AML in a patient with a solitary kidney. No complications occurred and no AML recurrence was observed during the 12-month follow-up<sup>13</sup>.

Little information exists regarding the efficacy of the combination of selective arterial embolism and radiofrequency ablation in AML treatment: Sooriakumaran et al. treated two large sporadic AMLs (tumour size greater than 9cm) who had received selective arteri-

al embolization before RFA and found a reduction in tumour mass of 20% with evidence of significantly reduced vascularity after RFA and minimal enhancement of the treated areas on CT or MRI in all two cases after a median follow-up of 7,5 months<sup>5</sup>. The above findings are comparable with that of our case.

### Conclusions

Both selective arterial embolization and RFA are effective for AML of < 4 cm however their efficacy in the treatment of larger tumours is questionable. For this reason complementary radiofrequency ablation therapy to super-selective arterial embolization of renal AMLs is a reasonable alternative approach. Current data suggests that the above combined interventional treatment appears to be effective in the treatment of large AMLs but is insufficient to provide conclusive evidence. Large randomized prospective studies would be needed to establish the efficacy of this treatment. 

## Περίληψη

Τα αγγειομυολιπώματα αποτελούνται από ποικίλες ποσότητες τριών συστατικών: αιμοφόρα αγγεία, λίειες μυϊκές ίνες και λίπος και αποτελούν την πιο συνηθισμένη καλοήγημη κυστική νεφρική βλάβη. Στις περισσότερες των περιπτώσεων βρίσκονται τυχαία, όταν οι νεφροί απεικονίζονται για άλλους λόγους. Όμως ενέχουν τον κίνδυνο ρήξης με αιμορραγία ή δευτεροπαθούς βλάβης των γύρω δομών λόγω της ανάπτυξής τους και της συνεπακόλουθης πίεσης. Ο κίνδυνος αιμορραγίας και βλάβης των γύρω ιστών είναι ανάλογη με το μέγεθος της βλάβης (διάμετρος > 4 cm).

Άλλα συμπτώματα και σημεία περιλαμβάνουν ψηλαφητή μάζα, πόνο στα πλευρά, λοιμώξεις του ουροποιητικού συστήματος, αιματουρία, νεφρική ανεπάρκεια ή υπέρταση. Τα αγγειομυολιπώματα που βρίσκονται παρεμπιπτόντως είναι συνήθως μικρά και έτσι δεν απαιτούν θεραπεία. Αντίθετα οι

βλάβες που παρουσιάζονται με οπισθοπεριτοναϊκή αιμορραγία συχνά απαιτούν επείγουσα αντιμετώπιση -συνήθως με εμβολισμό- για τη διάσωση του αρρώστου. Η προληπτική θεραπεία για τα μεγαλύτερα αγγειομυολιπώματα, ή εκείνων που συνδέονται με τα συμπτώματα που αναφέρθηκαν παραπάνω περιλαμβάνει την εκτομή του όγκου ή τη μερική νεφρεκτομή ή τον επιλεκτικό αρτηριακό εμβολισμό. Παρόλο που ο τελευταίος θεωρείται αποτελεσματικός στην πρόληψη της αιμορραγίας, φαίνεται πως είναι λιγότερο αποτελεσματικός στη μείωση του κινδύνου αναγέννησης

του όγκου ιδιαίτερα σε ασθενείς με πολλαπλά ή μεγάλα αγγειομυολιπώματα. Στο άρθρο αυτό συζητάμε τον συνδυασμό του επιλεκτικού αρτηριακού εμβολισμού με την καυτηρίαση με ραδιοσυχνότητες στην αντιμετώπιση γιγάντιων νεφρικών αγγειομυολιπωμάτων.

### Λέξεις ευρητηριασμού

**εμβολισμός,  
καυτηρίαση με  
ραδιοσυχνότητες,  
αγγειομυολίωμα,  
μονήρης νεφρός**

## References

1. Eble JN. Angiomyolipoma of kidney. *Semin Diagn Pathol.* 1998;15(1):21 - 40.
2. Maclean DF, Sultana R, Radwan R et al. Is the follow - up of small renal angiomyolipomas a necessary precaution?. *Clin Radiol.* 2014;69(8):822 - 6.
3. Faddegon S, So A. Treatment of angiomyolipoma at a tertiary care centre: the decision between surgery and angioembolization. *Can Urol Assoc J* 2011;5:138 - 141.
4. Bishay VL, Crino PB, Wein AJ, Malkowicz SB, et al. Embolization of giant renal angiomyolipomas: technique and results. *J Vasc Interv Radiol.* 2010;21(1):67 - 72.
5. Sooriakumaran PP, Gibbs PP, Coughlin GG, et al. Angiomyolipomata: challenges, solutions, and future prospects based on over 100 cases treated. *BJU Int* 2010;105:101 - 106.
6. Choyke PL, Glenn GM, Walther M, et al. Hippel - Lindau disease: genetic, clinical, and imaging features. *Radiology.* 1995;194:629 - 642.
7. Lienert AR, Nicol D. Renal angiomyolipoma. *BJU Int.* 2012;110:25 - 27.
8. Kothary N, Soulen MC, Clark TW et al. Renal angiomyolipoma: long - term results after arterial embolization. *J Vasc Interv Radiol* 2005;16:45 - 50.
9. Tracy CR, Raman JD, Donnally C, et al. Durable oncologic outcomes after radiofrequency ablation: experience from treating 243 small renal masses over 7.5 years. *Cancer* 2010;116:3135 - 42.
10. Shen G, Mao Q, Yang H, et al. Aggressive renal angiomyolipoma with vena cava extension: a case report and literature review. *Oncol Lett* 2014;8:1980 - 1982.
11. Castle SM, Gorbatiy V, Ekwenna O, et al. Radiofrequency ablation (RFA) therapy for renal angiomyolipoma (AML): an alternative to angio - embolization and nephron - sparing surgery. *BJU Int.* 2012;109(3):384 - 7.
12. Gregory SM, Anderson CJ, Patel U. Radiofrequency ablation of large renal angiomyolipoma: median - term follow - up. *Cardiovasc Intervent Radiol.* 2013;36(3):682 - 9.
13. Prevoo W, van den Bosch MA, Horenblas S. Radiofrequency ablation for treatment of sporadic angiomyolipoma. *Urology.* 2008;72(1):188 - 91.

ΔΙΑΤΡΟΦΗ | ΥΓΕΙΑ | ΟΜΟΡΦΙΑ

# ΔΥ FORUM 2016

Το μεγαλύτερο **Διαδραστικό, Επιστημονικό** και **Εκθεσιακό Forum** της χρονιάς για την **διατροφή, υγεία** και **ομορφιά**

 **16 - 17 Απριλίου 2016**

 **ΜΕΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΤΑΝ EXPO**  
ΕΚΘΕΣΙΑΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ

Με την αιγίδα:



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ  
Εθνικό και Καποδιστριακό  
Πανεπιστήμιο Αθηνών



ΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΣΧΟΛΗ  
Εθνικό και Καποδιστριακό  
Πανεπιστήμιο Αθηνών



ΙΑΤΡΙΚΟΣ ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ  
ΑΘΗΝΩΝ



ΚΡΑΤΟΠΡΟΣΩΠΙΚΟ  
ΜΙΣΘΟΓΑΛΙΟ ΚΑΙ ΑΣΦΑΛΙΣΤΙΚΟ

**ΕΙΣΟΔΟΣ  
ΔΩΡΕΑΝ**

Και την υποστήριξη  
14 Επιστημονικών Εταιρειών

Θα συμμετάσχουν  
5.000 ιατροί όλων  
των ειδικοτήτων,  
3.000 φαρμακοποιοί,  
30.000 επισκέπτες

14 ημερίδες,  
200 ομιλητές,  
30 διαδραστικά  
events  
1 διεθνές  
συνέδριο

## 2<sup>nd</sup> INTERNATIONAL Health Tourism CONVENTION

[www.dyomagazine.gr](http://www.dyomagazine.gr)  
[www.dyoforum.gr](http://www.dyoforum.gr)  
[www.internationalhealthtourismconvention.com](http://www.internationalhealthtourismconvention.com)

ΜΕ ΤΗΝ ΟΡΓΑΝΩΤΙΚΗ ΥΠΟΣΤΗΡΙΞΗ  
ΤΗΣ ZITA MEDICAL MANAGEMENT  
1ο χλμ. Παιανίας - Μαρκοπούλου, Παιανία, [www.zita-group.com](http://www.zita-group.com)



Πληροφορίες συμμετοχής: Τηλ. +30 211 1001780



## From vision to reality...

- Sponsorship
- Website & Digital Marketing
- Graphic Design
- Congress Organization
- Scientific Journals
- Financial Organization
- Media Office
- Travel Services

**We've made it a science!**

[www.zita-management.com](http://www.zita-management.com)

**CONTACT**





**Cialis**<sup>®</sup>  
tadalafil



**ΦΑΡΜΑΣΕΡΒ - ΛΙΛΛΥ Α.Ε.Β.Ε.**

15ο χλμ. Εθνικής Οδού Αθηνών - Λαμίας, 145 64 Κηφισιά  
τηλ.: 210 6294600 | fax: 210 6294610 | Τ.Θ.: 51288

Γραφείο Θεσσαλονίκης: Ανδριανουπόλεως 24  
551 33 Καθαμαριά, Θεσσαλονίκη | τηλ.: 2310 480160

Για παραγγελίες:

τηλ.: 210 6294629 | fax: 210 6294630 | e-mail: orders@lilly.gr

[www.lilly.gr](http://www.lilly.gr)

Για περισσότερες συνταγογραφικές πληροφορίες  
απευθυνθείτε στην Εταιρεία ΦΑΡΜΑΣΕΡΒ-ΛΙΛΛΥ Α.Ε.Β.Ε.



ADV3/NSM07.2015

Βοηθήστε να γίνουν τα φάρμακα πιο ασφαλή και  
Αναφέρετε  
ΟΛΕΣ τις ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες για  
ΟΛΑ τα φάρμακα  
Συμπληρώνοντας την «ΚΙΤΡΙΝΗ ΚΑΡΤΑ»

Λ.Τ.: 47,24€.

Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες συμβουλευτείτε την ΠΧΠ Vesomni που διατίθεται από τον ΚΑΚ.

**ΦΑΡΜΑΚΕΥΤΙΚΟ ΠΡΟΪΟΝ ΓΙΑ ΤΟ ΟΠΟΙΟ ΑΠΑΙΤΕΙΤΑΙ ΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΣΥΝΤΑΓΗ.**