

VOLUME 28 | ISSUE 4

OCTOBER
NOVEMBER
DECEMBER

2016

ISSN 2241 - 9136

Hellenic Urology

Quarterly Publication by the Hellenic Urological Association



REVIEWS

- The role of PTEN and ERG networks in prostate cancer
- Leak Point Pressures: Are they clinically useful?

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

- Incidental prostate cancer detected in cystoprostatectomy specimens in patients treated with radical cystectomy for bladder cancer
- Urethroplasty: Progress and results from a tertiary reference centre
- Age-adjusted PSA-density cut off values. Can the underdiagnosis and overdiagnosis of prostate cancer (PCa) and negative prostate biopsies be reduced at no cost?

CASE REPORTS

- Presentation of the first successful ureter excision and replacement in a monorenal patient using a synthetic pyelo-cystic bypass graft (detour)
- Selective renal artery embolization for the management of Wunderlich syndrome in a horseshoe kidney



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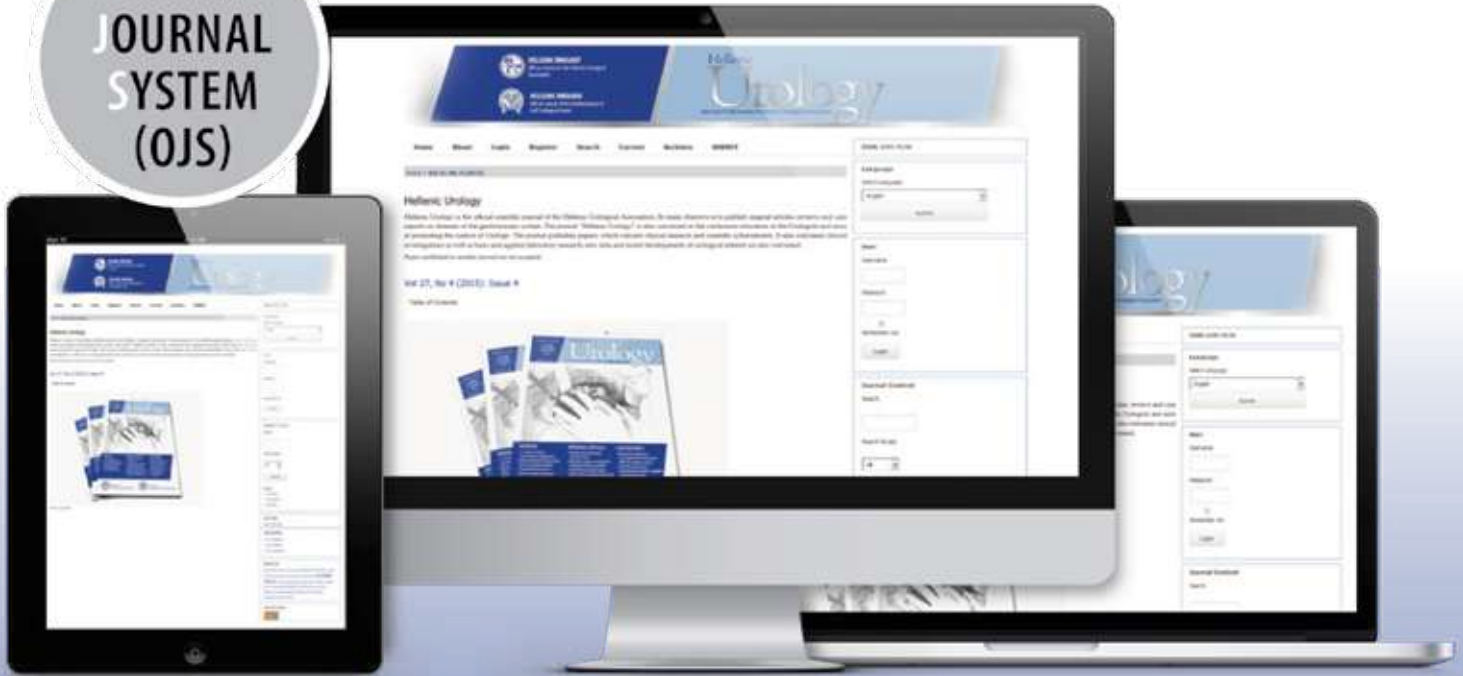


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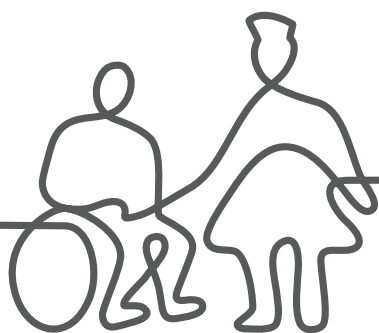
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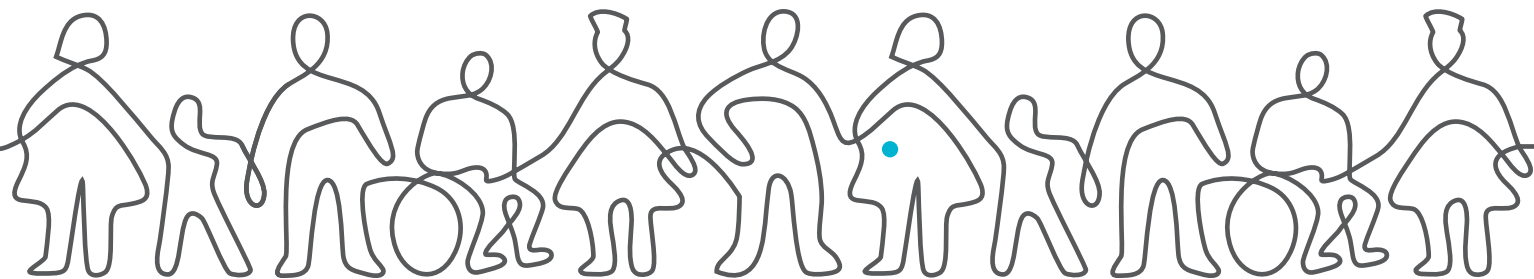


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TOVIAZ (φουμαρική φεσοτεροδίνη) **ΔΙΣΚΙΑ ΠΑΡΑΤΕΤΑΜΕΝΗΣ ΑΠΟΔΕΣΜΕΥΣΗΣ 4 & 8 mg/Tab ΘΕΡΑΠΕΥΤΙΚΗΣ ΕΝΔΕΙΞΕΙΣ:** Θεραπεία των συμπτωμάτων (συχνουργία ή/και έπειξη για ούρηση ή/και επιτακτικού τύπου ακράτεια) τα οποία μπορεί να παρουσιαστούν σε ενήλικες ασθενείς με σύνδρομο υπερδραστικής ουροδόχου κύστης. **ΑΝΤΕΝΔΕΙΞΕΙΣ:** Υπερειασθησία στη δραστική ουσία ή στο φυσικό ή στη σόγια ή σε οποιοδήποτε από τα έκδοχα, επίσχεση ούρων, γαστρική κατακράτηση, μη ελεγχόμενο γλαύκωμα κλειστής γωνίας, βαριά μυασθένεια, σοβαρή ηπατική δυσλειτουργία (Child-Pugh C), ταυτόχρονη χορήγηση ισχυρών αναστολέων του CYP3A4 σε άτομα με μέτρια έως σοβαρή ηπατική ή νεφρική δυσλειτουργία, σοβαρή ελκώδης κολίτιδα, τοξικό megacolon. **ΕΙΔΙΚΕΣ ΠΡΟΕΙΔΟΠΟΙΗΣΕΙΣ ΚΑΙ ΙΔΙΑΙΤΕΡΕΣ ΠΡΟΦΥΛΑΞΕΙΣ ΚΑΤΑ ΤΗ ΧΡΗΣΗ:** Το TOVIAZ πρέπει να χρησιμοποιείται με προσοχή σε ασθενείς με: Κλινικά σημαντική απόφραξη της κυστικής εξέδου με επαπειλούμενη επίσχεση ούρων, (π.χ. κλινικά σημαντική διόγκωση του προστάτη λόγω καλοήθους υπερπλασίας του προστάτη), αποφρακτικές βλάβες του γαστρεντερικού σωλήνα, π.χ. στένωση του πυλωρού, γαστροοσφραγική παλινδρόμηση ή/και ασθενείς που παίρνουν ταυτόχρονα φαρμακευτικά προϊόντα (όπως διφωσφονικά από το στόμα), τα οποία μπορεί να προκαλέσουν ή να παροξύνουν υπέρχουσα αισοφαγίτιδα, μειωμένη γαστρεντερική κινητικότητα, αυτόνομη νευροπάθεια, ελεγχόμενο γλαύκωμα κλειστής γωνίας. Συνιστάται προσοχή κατά τη συνταγογράφηση ή την αύξηση της δόσης της φεσοτεροδίνης σε ασθενείς στους οποίους αναμένεται αυξημένη έκθεση στον ενεργό μεταβολίτη: Ηπατική δυσλειτουργία, νεφρική δυσλειτουργία, ταυτόχρονη χορήγηση ισχυρών ή μέτριας ισχύος αναστολέων του CYP3A4, ταυτόχρονη χορήγηση ισχυρού αναστολέα του CYP2D6. **Αυξήσεις της δραστικότητας:** Σε ασθενείς με συνδυασμό αυτών των παραγόντων, αναμένονται επιπρόσθετες αυξήσεις της έκθεσης. Αντιμυοκαρδικές δόσοεξαρτώμενες ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες είναι πιθανόν να εμφανισθούν. Σε πληθυσμούς όπου η δόση μπορεί να αυξηθεί στα 8 mg μία φορά την ημέρα, η εκτίμηση της ανταπόκρισης και ανγχής του κάθε ασθενή ξεχωριστά θα πρέπει να προηγείται της αύξησης της δόσης. Πρέπει να αποκλειστούν όλα τα οργανικά αίτια προτού εξεταστεί οποιαδήποτε θεραπεία με αντιμυοκαρδικά. Η ασφάλεια και η αποτελεσματικότητα δεν έχουν ακόμα τεκμηριωθεί σε ασθενείς με νευρογενή αίτια για την υπερδραστικότητα του εξωστήρα μυός. Άλλα αίτια της συχνουργίας (θεραπεία της καρδιακής ανεπάρκειας ή νεφροπάθεια) πρέπει να αξιολογούνται πριν τη θεραπεία με φεσοτεροδίνη. Εάν είναι παρούσα λοίμωξη των ουροφόρων οδών, πρέπει να ληφθεί μια κατάλληλη ιατρική προσέγγιση για ξεκινήσει αντιμικροβιακή θεραπεία. **Αγγειοοίδημα:** Έχει αναφερθεί αγγειοοίδημα με φεσοτεροδίνη και έχει εκδηλωθεί μετά την πρώτη δόση σε κάποιες περιπτώσεις. Εάν εκδηλωθεί αγγειοοίδημα, η φεσοτεροδίνη θα πρέπει να διακοπεί και θα πρέπει να παρασχεθεί η κατάλληλη θεραπεία. **Ισχυροί επαγωγείς του CYP3A4:** Η ταυτόχρονη χρήση της φεσοτεροδίνης με έναν ισχυρό επαγωγέα του CYP3A4 (δηλ. καρβαμαζεπίνη, ριφαμπικίνη, φαινοβαρβιτάλη, φαινοϊνίνη, υπερίκο) δεν ανιχνεύεται. **Παράταση του διαστήματος QT:** Το TOVIAZ πρέπει να χρησιμοποιείται με προσοχή σε ασθενείς με κίνδυνο παράτασης του διαστήματος QT (π.χ. υποκαλιαιμία, βραδυκαρδία και ταυτόχρονη χορήγηση φαρμάκων για τα οποία είναι γνωστό ότι παρατείνουν το διάστημα QT) και σχετικές προϋπάρχουσες καρδιακές ασθένειες (π.χ. ισχαιμία του μυοκαρδίου, αρρυθμία, συμφορητική καρδιακή ανεπάρκεια). Αυτό ισχύει ιδιαίτερα κατά τη λήψη ισχυρών αναστολέων του CYP3A4. **Λακτόζη:** Τα TOVIAZ δισκία παρατεταμένης αποδέσμευσης περιέχουν λακτόζη. Οι ασθενείς με σπάνια κληρονομικά προβλήματα δυσανεξίας στη γαλακτόζη, ανεπάρκειας λακτάσης του Lapp ή δυσασπορήσης γλυκόζης-γαλακτόζης δεν πρέπει να λαμβάνουν αυτό το φαρμακευτικό προϊόν. **ΑΝΕΠΙΘΥΜΗΤΕΣ ΕΝΕΡΓΕΙΕΣ:** Περύλιψη του προσώπου, ασφάλεια: Η ασφάλεια της φεσοτεροδίνης, αξιολογήθηκε σε ελεγχόμενες με εικονικό φάρμακο κλινικές μελέτες σε ένα σύνολο 2.859 ασθενών με υπερδραστική

ουροδόχο κύστη, από τους οποίους 780 έλαβαν εικονικό φάρμακο. Λόγω των φαρμακολογικών ιδιοτήτων της φεσοτεροδίνης, η θεραπεία ενδέχεται να προκαλέσει ήπιες έως μέτριες αντιμυοκαρδικές δράσεις, όπως ξηροστομία, ξηροφθαλμία, δυσπεψία και δυσκοιλιότητα. Επίσχεση ούρων μπορεί να εκδηλωθεί σπάνια. Η ξηροστομία, η μόνη πολύ συχνή ανεπιθύμητη ενέργεια, εμφανίστηκε με συχνότητα 28,8% στην ομάδα φεσοτεροδίνης σε σύγκριση με 8,5% στην ομάδα του εικονικού φαρμάκου. Η πλειονότητα των ανεπιθύμητων ενεργειών παρατηρήθηκαν κατά τη διάρκεια του πρώτου μήνα θεραπείας με εξαίρεση περιστατικά που κατηγοριοποιήθηκαν ως επίσχεση ούρων ή υπόλεμμα ούρων μετά την ούρηση μεγαλύτερο από 200ml, το οποίο μπορεί να συμβεί μετά από μακροχρόνια θεραπεία και ήταν πιο συχνό στους άντρες απ' ό,τι στις γυναίκες. Παράκτωμα παρουσιάζεται η συχνότητα των ανεπιθύμητων ενεργειών που παρουσιάστηκαν κατά τη θεραπεία, από τις ελεγχόμενες με εικονικό φάρμακο κλινικές δοκιμές και από την εμπειρία μετά την κυκλοφορία του φαρμάκου στην αγορά. Οι ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες ενφέρονται με την ακόλουθη συνθήκη συχνότητας: πολύ συχνές ($\geq 1/10$), συχνές ($\geq 1/10$), όχι συχνές ($\geq 1/100$ έως $< 1/100$), σπάνιες ($\geq 1/1000$ έως $< 1/1000$). Οι ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες παρατίθενται κατά φθίνουσα σειρά σοβαρότητας: Πολύ συχνές: Ξηροστομία, Συχνές: Αιτία, ζάλη, κεφαλαλγία, ξηροφθαλμία, ξηρότητα του φάρυγγα, κολιακό άλγος, διάρροια, δυσπεψία, δυσκοιλιότητα, ναυτία, δυσουρία.. Όχι συχνές: Ουρολοιμώξη, δυσγαστρία, υπνηλία, θαμνή όραση, λιγύος, ταχυκαρδία, αίσθημα παλμών, φαρμυλογαργγικό άλγος, βήχας, ξηρότητα του ρινικού βλεννογόνου, κολιακή δυσφορία, μετεωρισμός, γαστροοσφραγική παλινδρόμηση, αυξημένη ALT, αυξημένη GGT, εξάνθημα, ξηροδερμία, κνισμός, επίσχεση ούρων (συμπεριλαμβανομένου του αισθήματος υπολειπόμενων ούρων και της διαταραχής της ούρησης), δυσκολία στην ούρηση, κόπωση. Σπάνιες: Κατάσταση σύγχυσης, αγγειοοίδημα, κνίδωση. **Περιγραφή επιλεγμένων ανεπιθύμητων ενεργειών:** Στις κλινικές δοκιμές της φεσοτεροδίνης, αναφέρθηκαν περιπτώσεις σημαντικά αυξημένων ηπατικών ενζύμων με συχνότητα εμφάνισης όμοια με εκείνη της ομάδας του εικονικού φαρμάκου. Η συσχέτιση με τη θεραπεία φεσοτεροδίνης δεν έχει διευκρινιστεί. Ελήφθησαν ηλεκτροκαρδιογραφήματα 782 ασθενών υπό θεραπεία με 4 mg, 785 ασθενών υπό θεραπεία με 8 mg, 222 ασθενών υπό θεραπεία με 12 mg φεσοτεροδίνης και 780 ασθενών που λάμβαναν εικονικό φάρμακο. Το διορθωμένο για τον καρδιακό ρυθμό διάστημα QT στους ασθενείς υπό θεραπεία με φεσοτεροδίνη δεν διέφερε από εκείνο των ασθενών που λάμβαναν εικονικό φάρμακο. Τα ποσοστά εμφάνισης QTc ≥ 500 ms μετά την αρχική αξιολόγηση ή εμφάνισης αύξησης QTc ≥ 60 ms είναι 1,9%, 1,3%, 1,4% και 1,5%, για φεσοτεροδίνη 4 mg, 8 mg, 12 mg και εικονικό φάρμακο, αντίστοιχα. Η κλινική σημασία αυτών των ευρημάτων θα εξαρτηθεί από τους παράγοντες κινδύνου και τους προδιαθεσικούς παράγοντες του κάθε ασθενούς ξεχωριστά (βλ. παράγραφο Ειδικές προειδοποιήσεις και Ιδιαίτερες προφυλάξεις κατά τη χρήση). **ΚΑΤΟΧΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΑΔΕΙΑΣ ΚΥΚΛΟΦΟΡΙΑΣ:** Pfizer Limited, Ramsgate Road, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9NJ, Ηνωμένο Βασίλειο. **ΑΡΙΘΜΟΣ(ΟΙ) ΑΔΕΙΑΣ ΚΥΚΛΟΦΟΡΙΑΣ:** EU/1/07/386/001-020 **ΗΜΕΡΟΜΗΝΙΑ ΑΝΑΘΕΩΡΗΣΗΣ ΤΟΥ ΚΕΙΜΕΝΟΥ:** 06/2015. **ΑΙΔΗΛΗΤΗ ΤΙΜΗ:** 4 mg δισκία παρατεταμένης αποδέσμευσης BT x 30, Α.Τ.: 32,65 €, 8 mg δισκία παρατεταμένης αποδέσμευσης BT x 30, Α.Τ.: 33,76 € **ΦΑΡΜΑΚΕΥΤΙΚΟ ΠΡΟΪΟΝ ΓΙΑ ΤΟ ΟΠΟΙΟ ΑΠΑΙΤΕΙΤΑΙ ΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΣΥΝΤΑΓΗ ΓΙΑ ΠΛΗΡΗΣ ΣΥΝΤΑΓΟΓΡΑΦΙΚΕΣ ΠΛΗΡΟΦΟΡΙΕΣ ΠΑΡΑΚΛΕΙΣΘΕ ΝΑ ΑΠΕΥΘΥΝΘΕΙΤΕ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΤΑΙΡΙΑ.**

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



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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.

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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:



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

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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.

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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).

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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.

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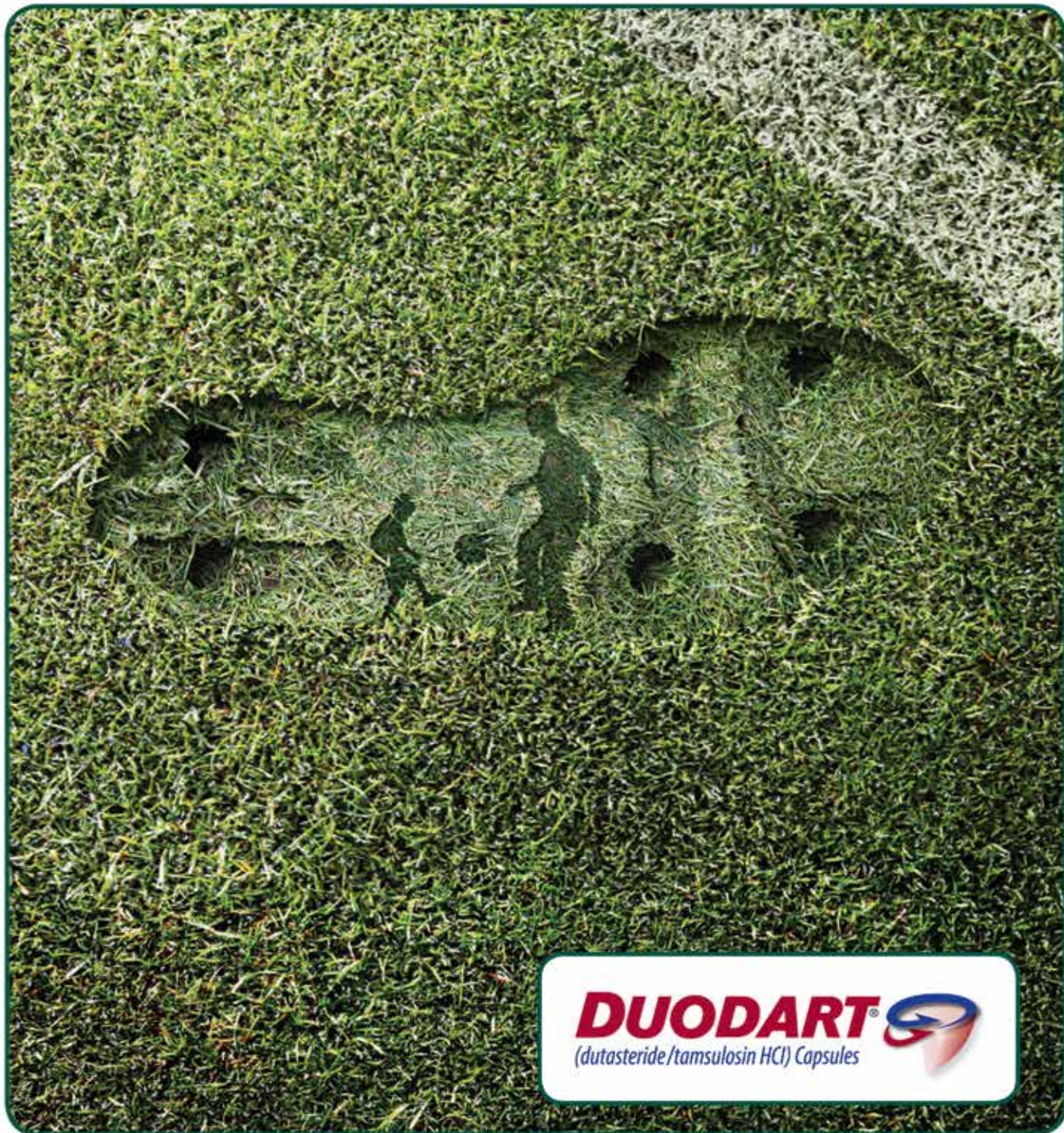
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REVIEW

The role of PTEN and ERG networks in prostate cancer

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Abstract

As prostate cancer represents the most common malignancy and one of the leading causes of cancer mortality among elder males in both Europe and the United States there is a wide interest of identifying new molecular pathways and markers which can be used in order to predict prognosis and thus differentiate indolent forms of PCa from aggressive ones. Several molec-

ular pathways and oncogenes have been implicated in PCa development and progression with the PI3-Akt pathway and the ERG oncogene having a prominent role. There is a necessity of describing the exact molecular pathways and their influence in prostate carcinogenesis and their association with lethal prostate cancer, poorly differentiated tumors and higher stage disease.

Citation

Fragkoulis C, Papatsoris A. The role of PTEN and ERG networks in prostate cancer. *Hellenic Urology* 2016, 28 (4): 25-30

Introduction

Prostate cancer represents the most common malignancy and one of the leading causes of cancer mortality among elder males in both Europe and the United States¹. As a disease, it may present with a variety of clinical behavior, including tumors of very low clinical significance but also highly aggressive tumors with increased risk of relapse after initial treatment. Well established risk factors for developing clinical PCa include increasing age, ethnic origin and heredity although it is highly possible that environmental factors also contribute for developing clinical disease². True hereditary PCa

represents about 9% of PCa patients and is defined as three or more affected relatives, or at least two relatives who have developed early onset disease³.

Although currently used prognostic factors after include tumor type, PSA levels, tumor grade as defined by Gleason score, positive surgical margins after radical prostatectomy, tumor volume and tumor stage⁴ there

is a wide interest of identifying new molecular pathways and markers which can be used in order to predict prognosis and thus differentiate indolent forms of PCa from aggressive ones.

Moreover, nowadays, tumors traditionally treated either by radical pros-

Key words

prostate cancer; ERG;
PTEN; PI3-Akt

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tatectomy or by external beam radiation therapy are considered of low clinical significance and such patients are placed under active surveillance protocols with purpose to reduce overtreatment. As a result, in the "active surveillance" era, there is a need of establishing strong prognostic markers identifying aggressive tumors as well as clinical significant tumors even among these initially characterized of low or intermediate risk. A major concern among patients in active surveillance protocols is the wide intra-observer variability among pathologists in identifying Gleason score. It is estimated that Gleason score upgrading in radical prostatectomy is about 26-50%⁵.

Several molecular pathways and oncogenes have been implicated in PCa development and progression. One pathway with a prominent role is the PI3-Akt pathway, found to be up-regulated in several PCa patients⁶. Progression of PCa to castrate resistant metastatic form is also associated with the expression of cellular adhesion molecules (integrins, cadherins) which mediate aberrant interactions between glandular epithelial cells and the extracellular matrix with their expression having also a prognostic value. There is an association between the expression of the E-cadherin/catenin complex and high grade prostate cancer with ongoing clinical trials evaluating the efficacy of integrin antagonists showing promising results⁷. Moreover, autocrine and paracrine events regulated by nerve growth factor (NGF) and relevant receptors seem to play a significant role in prostate carcinogenesis. Studies reveal that p75^{NTR} is both a tumor suppressor of growth and a metastasis suppressor of human prostate cancer cells. Furthermore, p75^{NTR} is progressively lost during prostate carcinogenesis with an imbalance between p75^{NTR} and tropomyosin receptor kinase A (TrkA)-mediated signals being involved in the progression of prostate cancer through increased proliferation and reduced apoptosis⁸.

The purpose of this review article is to summarize the role of the deletion of the tumor suppressor gene PTEN and the expression of the oncogene ERG as prognostic markers in prostate cancer patients.

The PI3K-Akt signaling pathway

The PI3K-Akt pathway is an important intracellular molecular pathway with an important role in regulating cell survival, proliferation, growth and apoptosis. It is

estimated that the PI3K-Akt pathway is up-regulated in about 30-50% of prostate cancer patients [6]. Various growth factors including epidermal growth factor (EGF), platelet-derived growth factor receptor (PDGF) and insulin-like growth factor (IGF) initiate the PIP3-Akt pathway by activating receptors of tyrosine kinases leading to the phosphorylation of PI3K at the level of the cell membrane. As a result, the phosphorylated PI3K triggers the conversion of PIP2 to PIP3 with subsequently mediates the phosphorylation of Akt through PDK1⁹. IGF signaling cascade is already known to be involved in prostate carcinogenesis. Circulating IGF-1 is associated with prostate cancer risk and it has been suggested that IGF-1 induces ligand-independent activation of the androgen receptor and enhances the expression of matrix metalloproteinase-2 and urokinase plasminogen activator. Furthermore, progression to androgen independence has been linked to deregulation of the IGF-1-IGF-1-receptor axis¹⁰.

Activated Akt has a profound role in carcinogenesis by promoting cell growth and protein synthesis by regulating the mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR) pathway. mTOR is a serine/threonine kinase with critical role in the regulation of cell growth, survival and division. Moreover, apart from interaction with the mTOR pathway Akt may also interact directly with the androgen receptor in an androgen independent manner leading to androgen receptor overactivation resulting to the development of castration resistant prostate cancer^{9,11}.

The Phosphatase and Tensin Homolog Gene - PTEN

The phosphatase and tensin homolog gene (PTEN) is a tumor suppressor gene located on chromosome 10q23.3 found to be mutated in a large number of cancers at a high frequency including prostate cancer (PCa)¹². The protein product encoded by PTEN gene is a dual lipid phosphatase that acts as a negative regulator of the PIK3/Akt survival pathway which is found to be up-regulated in 30-50% of prostate cancer⁶. More specifically, PTEN encoded protein negatively regulated the intracellular levels of PIP3 by removing the 3-phosphatase from PIP3 converting it back to PIP2. As a result, the phosphorylation of Akt mediated by PIP2 conversion to PIP3 is inhibited and a G1 cell cycle arrest is induced^{9,12}. Apart from interacting with the PIP3-Akt pathway, PTEN also presents PIP3 independent mech-

anisms of genomic stability regulation with involvement also in the MAPK signaling pathway¹³. Activation of MAPK signaling network is known to affect directly and/or indirectly androgen receptor (AR) activity. This multi-partite network propagates chemical stimuli from the cell surface to the nucleus via sequential kinase signaling and intensive cross-talk. During prostate carcinogenesis, crucial components of this network are deregulated, thus affecting cellular proliferation, apoptosis, and metastasis with various molecules of the MAPK network represent appealing selective targets for prostate cancer therapeutics¹⁴.

Nowadays, as PCa is the leading cause of cancer mortality among elder males the understanding of PTEN genomic status and alterations and its co-operation with other genetic markers and their clinical significance becomes quite compelling. Immunohistochemical staining of PTEN loss is associated with a 64% risk of definite PCa on subsequent biopsy in patients with borderline lesions in the primary biopsy and may also be utilized in intraductal prostate cancer differential diagnosis from high grade pin¹⁵. In addition, in a retrospective analysis of 77 patients treated with radical prostatectomy PTEN loss at the time of the initial biopsy seems to predict time to development of metastasis, prostate cancer-specific mortality and, for the first time, castration-resistant prostate cancer and response to androgen deprivation therapy after radical prostatectomy¹⁶. Moreover, in a study comparing 451 patients who presented with clinical or biochemical recurrence after radical prostatectomy for clinically localized prostate cancer with a control group of 451 with no recurrence, PTEN loss as a prognostic marker was associated with a higher risk of recurrence¹⁷. The complete PTEN loss in paraffin embedded PCa specimens in patients with primary PCa was also found to correlate significantly with the presence of high stage disease (T3b-T4) as well as with a Gleason score ≥ 7 ¹⁸. Moreover as far as it concerns oncologic results after radical prostatectomy, in a multicenter study by Troyer et al. published in 2015, PTEN deletion status showed a highly significant correlation with pathologic stage (19% homozygous deletion for stage pT3/pT4 tumors *versus* 6% for stage pT1/pT2). This effect was less pronounced for the hemizygous deletions with 12% (17/146) stage pT3/pT4 tumors showing deletions and 8% (26/331) of stage pT1/pT2. The presence of PTEN

deletion was also correlated strongly with seminal vesicle invasion, extracapsular extension and higher Gleason scores¹⁹.

In a study by Cuzick et al., the prognostic value of PTEN loss was evaluated in a cohort of 675 men with conservatively managed prostate cancer diagnosed by transurethral resection of the prostate with primary endpoint being death from PCa. An overall PTEN loss as evaluated by immunohistochemical staining was present in 18% of patients. In a univariate analysis it was significantly associated with prostate cancer death and was found to be highly predictive in the group of patients characterized as low risk in terms of Gleason score and PSA but had no prognostic value in higher risk patients²⁰. In a study by Zu et al. involving 805 patients diagnosed with PCa and underwent radical prostatectomy, PTEN expression was assessed along with its interaction with IGF1R and their relation with lethal prostate cancer. Low PTEN expression was associated with an increase risk of lethal prostate cancer and a significant negative interaction between PTEN and IGF1R was found²¹.

As patients with PCa characterized as clinical insignificant represent an over-treated population, the role of PTEN in the separation of insignificant from significant PCa was examined in a recent study published in 2016 involving 48 patients with clinically insignificant disease and 76 with significant all treated by radical prostatectomy. As a result, PTEN loss was present in only 2% of clinically insignificant PCa patients and on the contrary it was present in 13% of large volume Gleason score 6 patients and in 46% of Gleason score 7 or higher patients²².

In terms of castration resistant prostate cancer, the role of PTEN is also quite important as alteration in the PTEN/PI3K pathway are nowadays associated with late stage and castrate resistant prostate cancer (CRPC). PTEN loss suppresses androgen-responsive gene expressions by modulating androgen receptor transcription factor activity. These data support the hypothesis that PI3K-Akt pathway and androgen receptor cross-talk form a possible mechanism of CRPC development, with potentially important implications such patients' treatment²³. As both clinical and preclinical evidence suggests that activation of PI3K/AKT signaling through loss of PTEN can result in resistance to hormonal treatment in prostate cancer, the antitumor activity of abi-



aterone acetate in CRPC patients with and without loss of PTEN protein expression was evaluated. In a retrospective study of 144 patients an were overall, loss of PTEN expression was observed in 40% of patients. Loss of PTEN expression was associated with shorter median overall survival and shorter median duration of abiraterone treatment²⁴.

ERG - ETS Related Gene


ERG (ETS Related Gene) is an oncogene located in 21q22.2, member of the ETS family. It encodes a protein named also ERG which acts as a regulator of vascular cell remodeling and megakaryotic cells differentiation²⁵. In prostate cancer, ERG has most frequently been involved as a fusion protein with transmembrane protease, serine 2 (TMPRSS2), a protein encoded by TMPRSS2 gene located in 21q22.3²⁶. Recurrent translocations resulting in TMPRSS2:ERG fusion are involved in about 40% of prostate cancer cases. In terms of predictive value, expression of TMPRSS2: ERG oncoprotein is associated with a greated likelihood of lethal prostate cancer, poorly differentiated tumors and higher stage diseases with pelvic lymph node involvement²⁷.

As far as it concerns the combination of PTEN loss with the expression of TMPRSS2: ERG protein is associated with poor prognosis, suggesting these molecular pathways may be the target of preclinical therapeutic research²⁸. In a study by Ahearn et al. 1,044 incidental prostate cancer cases were followed up for an average of 11.7 years and correlation of cancer specific mortality and all cause mortality with PTEN loss and TMPRSS2: ERG expression was examined. As a result, PTEN loss was independently associated with greater risk of lethal prostate cancer especially among ERG fusion negative subgroup²⁹. In addition, Leinonen et al. investigated the association of ERG overexpression combined with PTEN loss with prostate cancer clinical behavior. The study included 326 prostatectomies, 166 needle biopsies from men treated primarily with endocrine therapy, 177 transurethral resections of castration-resistant prostate cancers (CRPC), and 114 CRPC metas-

tases obtained from 32 men. Immunohistochemistry, FISH, and sequencing was used for the measurements. ERG expression was found in about 45% of all patient cohorts. ERG positivity was significantly associated with loss of PTEN expression in prostatectomy and locally recurrent CRPCs. Moreover PTEN loss was associated with shorter progression-free survival in ERG-positive, but not in negative cases³⁰.

Moreover, in a recent study analyzing data from 68 patients who underwent radical prostatectomy for localized prostate cancer PTEN and TMPRSS-2 ERG expression was assessed by immunohistochemistry methods. Patients were divided into four groups according to PTEN and TMPRSS-2 combined expression and oncologic results were compared accordingly. PTEN loss was proved to be an unfavourable prognostic marker with the worst oncologic results following radical prostatectomy being present in the group of patients who had PTEN deletion without expression of TMPRSS-2 ERG fusion protein. Loss of PTEN expression combined with non expression of TMPRSS-2 ERG fusion was associated with higher rates of positive surgical margins, higher rates of Gleason Score 8 or 9 and more frequent rates of seminal vesicles invasion³¹.

Epilogue

Nowadays there is a wide interest of identifying new molecular pathways and markers which can be used in order to predict prognosis and thus differentiate indolent forms of PCa from aggressive ones. As PTEN loss and TMPRSS2: ERG fusion protein expression are common in prostate cancer patients, there is a necessity of describing the exact molecular pathways and their influence in prostate carcinogenesis. In addition, more studies are mandatory in order to clarify the clinical significance of PTEN loss and TMPRSS2: ERG fusion as well as their role as molecular prognostic markers in prostate cancer patients. 

Conflicts of interest

The authors declared no conflicts of interest.

Περίληψη

Ο καρκίνος του προστάτη αποτελεί την πιο συχνή κακοήθεια και μία από τις κύριες αιτίες θανάτου από καρκίνο μεταξύ των ανδρών τόσο στην Ευρώπη όσο και στις Ηνωμένες Πολιτείες. Συνεπώς υπάρχει ευρύ ενδιαφέρον για τον εντοπισμό νέων μοριακών μονοπατιών και προγνωστικών δεικτών που μπορούν να χρησιμοποιηθούν για να διαχωρίσουν τις πιο επιθετικές μορφές της νόσου. Αρκετά μοριακά μονοπάτια και ογκογονίδια έχουν εμπλακεί στην ανάπτυξη

του καρκίνου του προστάτη και την εξέλιξη του με το PI3-Akt μονοπάτι και το ογκογονίδιο ERG να διαδραματίζουν εξεχόντα ρόλο. Ως αποτέλεσμα υπάρχει αναγκαιότητα να περιγραφούν οι ακριβείς μοριακές οδοί καθώς και την επιρροή τους στην καρκινογένεση του προστάτη και η συσχέτιση τους με θανατηφόρες μορφές της νόσου, ελάχιστα διαφοροποιημένους όγκους και υψηλότερα στάδια αυτής.

**Λέξεις
ευρητηριασμού**
**καρκίνος προστάτη,
PTEN, ERG, PI3-Akt**

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REVIEW

Leak Point Pressures: Are they clinically useful?

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Abstract

Leak Point Pressure tests have been introduced based on the experience acquired after many years of videourodynamic studies performed in a wide variety of medical conditions, such as stress urinary incontinence and incontinence evolving in patients with neurological conditions. There are two tests available for use in the daily practice, the Abdominal Leak Point Pressure (ALPP), which provides information of the extent to which

Intrinsic Sphincter Deficiency (ISD) is responsible for the incontinence and the Detrusor Leak Point Pressure (DLPP) which aims to predict the risk of upper urinary tract deterioration in patients with neurogenic bladder dysfunction. The importance of these tests is often questioned mainly because of coexisting substantial confounding factors. We herein review the literature about the role of Leak Point Pressures in the Urologist's daily practice.

Citation

Mitsogiannis I C, Mourmouris P. Leak Point Pressures: Are they clinically useful? *Hellenic Urology* 2016, 28 (4): 31-37

Introduction

Leak Point Pressures (LPPs) are the result of the experience acquired after many years of videourodynamic studies performed in patients with urinary incontinence, either neurogenic or non-neurogenic. The available data in the literature suggest that two leak point pressure tests may aid towards acquiring information about lower urinary function. Abdominal Leak Point Pressure (ALPP) is a dynamic test providing information about the degree of Intrinsic Sphincter Deficiency (ISD) involvement in the pathophysiology of Stress Urinary Incontinence (SUI). The Detrusor Leak Point Pressure (DLPP) may potentially predict the risk of upper urinary tract deteriora-

tion in patients with neurogenic bladder dysfunction. As these two measurements represent different expulsive forces and have different effects on the urethra they are evaluated separately¹. The aim of this paper is to review the available data regarding LPPs focusing on the clarification of their different aspects and clinical significance, if any.

Key words

Abdominal Leak Point Pressure; Detrusor Leak Point Pressure; stress incontinence; neurogenic bladder

Abdominal Leak Point Pressure (ALPP)

ALPP has been introduced as a useful diagnostic aid for determining the aetiology of urinary stress incontinence, in particular for the identification of urethral sphincter deficiency (**Table 1**)². Intrinsic sphincter deficiency (ISD) has traditionally been considered one

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TABLE 1	<i>Clinical applicability of ALPP and DLPP</i>
ALPP	DLPP
Identification of Intrinsic Sphincter Deficiency (ISD)	Assessment of risk of upper urinary tract deterioration in neuro-urological conditions
Determination of type of surgical management	Determination of treatment (conservative, early surgical intervention)
Assessment of post-prostatectomy incontinence in the male	Additional diagnostic information in patients with neurogenic urological disorders

TABLE 2	<i>Confounding factors in measurement of ALPP and DLPP values</i>
ALPP	DLPP
Lack of standardisation of the technique	
Catheter calibre	
Bladder fill rate	
Provocation test	
Intravesical volume	
Presence of Pelvic Organ Prolapse	

of the underlying mechanisms of stress incontinence (the other being Urethral Hypermobility, UH), in particular that which defines type III SUI³. It is very likely that all women with SUI have a degree of ISD with or without urethral hypermobility and the contribution of both does vary between individuals.

ALPP is defined as the minimum intravesical pressure, in the absence of detrusor contraction, at which leakage of urine occurs. It is obvious that, at the time of leakage, the most prominent component of intravesical pressure is the intra-abdominal pressure, as the detrusor component is very small. ALPP is usually recorded during a Valsalva manoeuvre (Valsalva Leak Point Pressure, VLPP) in a patient undergoing conventional cystometry or videocystometry and reflects the ability of the urethra to resist intra-abdominal pressure as an expulsive force⁴. Alternatively coughing may be used as the provocation method allowing ALPP to be calculated (Cough Leak Point Pressure, CLPP).

The use of the ALPP for identification of ISD was first introduced in 1993 by McGuire et al.² In their study of 125 patients, incontinence was graded ac-

ording to patients' description (grade 0, 1, 2, 3) as well as using videocystometry (type I, II, III). An inverse correlation between ALPP and the type and grade of incontinence was clearly demonstrated: 75% of patients with type III and 81% of patients with grade III stress incontinence had a ALPP less than 60 cm-H₂O. The authors concluded that differentiation between types of stress incontinence could be made on the basis of the ALPP value without resorting to videocystometry². Similar results were reported by other investigators. Nitti and Combs found a strong correlation between the VLPP and the severity of stress incontinence, graded according to SEAPI-QMN classification⁵. In another study, women with severe incontinence were found to be statistically more likely to have a low VLPP⁶. Since the initial reports, the intravesical pressure of 60 cmH₂O has often been used as the cut-off value below which diagnosis of ISD can be safely made, whereas a VLPP value of >90cmH₂O is considered indicative of UH. There is however some debate over the threshold pressure for VLPP to be diagnostic of ISD. This can be deduced from the published data, where 25% of patients with a ALPP less

than 60 cm H₂O do not have ISD² and 57% of patients without UH do not have a low ALPP.⁷

Although some studies have shown the test to be reproducible, there is no consensus in the literature about the methodology for ALPP calculation. No standardisation exists in terms of catheter size, intravesical volume at which ALPP should be calculated, provocation method and patient's position during the test (**Table 2**). Furthermore, there has been substantial inconsistency in the way ALPP is calculated amongst studies. The total intravesical pressure from the baseline,⁸⁻⁹ the rise in intravesical pressure over the resting end-fill pressure¹⁰⁻¹¹ or both^{5,12} have been used for ALPP evaluation.

Catheter size has been found to influence ALPP values. Bump et al. calculated VLPP by using two different sizes of urethral catheters (3F and 8F). Although there was an extremely high intracatheter correlation between the test-retest VLPP for both the 3F and the 8F catheters, the VLPP values recorded by the 8F catheters were significantly higher than the 3F measurements¹⁰. This may be attributed to the obstructive effect the larger catheters have on the urethra.

Numerous studies have reported that ALPP decreases with increasing intravesical volume^{11,13}. However, Petrou and Kollmorgen reported no statistically significant difference in VLPP determination using volumes of 150 ml, 300 ml and total bladder capacity⁹. Faerber and Vashi found that increasing intravesical volume affected the ALPP value only in patients with type II but not in those with type I or III incontinence¹⁴. The optimal volume for LPP calculation has not been defined yet, however McGuire suggested that the test should be carried out at a moderate volume, sufficient to provide a urinary bolus on which the intra-abdominal pressure can act, but not so great as to induce a rise in the detrusor pressure⁴. Currently, most authors recommend calculation of VLPP or CLPP at a volume of 150-250 ml or at half of bladder functional capacity as assessed by a voiding diary¹⁵. Another factor reported to influence ALPP values is the use of intravaginal instead of intravesical catheter. ALPP values obtained by a transvaginal catheter have been reported in one study to be significantly lower than those recorded transvesically¹⁰. However, others showed no difference between these two methods of ALPP calculation¹³.

ALPP may be determined either during a Valsalva manoeuvre or during coughing. The former is the most commonly used method as it allows for a gradual increase of the intra-abdominal pressure and hence more accurate recording of the leakage-producing pressure. In most studies cough is used as an alternative provocation method should the Valsalva manoeuvre be unsuccessful. However, despite the fact that cough is the only method to provoke leakage in women who are unable to increase their intra-abdominal pressure on a Valsalva manoeuvre, the recorded pressure may not be the lowest one to induce leakage. A possible explanation for this phenomenon would be either a reflex contraction of the external sphincter during coughing, which further occludes the bladder outlet thus increasing the recorded CLPP, or difficulty in achieving an accurate measurement because of the rapid and short duration of pressure change. Several studies have compared VLPP with CLPP and found CLPP to be significantly higher than VLPP in patients who leaked on both manoeuvres, although there was a strong correlation between these two values^{10,13,16}. Also, CLPP has been reported to have a far greater diagnostic accuracy in diagnosing SUI; 36% of patients with leakage on coughing fail to leak during a Valsalva manoeuvre¹⁶. The inability of women to leak on a Valsalva manoeuvre is no doubt related not only to the greater magnitude of the pressure rise generated during a cough, but also to its episodic nature.

A difficulty possibly encountered during ALPP measurement is the presence of anterior vaginal wall prolapse. This may absorb some of the force of the abdominal contraction during a Valsalva manoeuvre and hence the patient may not leak until pressures are higher; ALPP is therefore artificially elevated and probably not representative of the normal circumstances in which a woman leaks^{4,17}.

Currently, the importance of ALPP measurement during the diagnosis process of SUI has declined, not only because of the inconsistencies related to its calculation, but also because of the common practice to apply minimally invasive techniques, i.e. tension-free vaginal tapes, to any type of SUI without resorting to urodynamics preoperatively. The presence of ISD, which is indicative of a low-resistance urethra, is definitely associated with increased risk of surgical fail-



ure, nevertheless surgery is not contra-indicated in ISD-related SUI as the success rates of midurethral slings (especially of those placed retropubically) are acceptable¹⁸⁻¹⁹. The NICE (National Institute of Clinical Excellence) guidelines recommend that urodynamics should be considered in all patients other than those with pure SUI (a small percentage of patients)²⁰. There are however important urodynamic questions regarding ALPP clinical utility. Firstly, does the diagnosis of ISD vs. UH predict an unsuccessful outcome? Secondly, can ALPP assist in decisions regarding type and relative success of surgery? Whether diagnosing ISD helps towards predicting surgical outcome remains controversial, as the results of various studies are conflicting. In the retrospective review by Han et al., 88 patients who were cured of their SUI 6 months after a midurethral sling procedure, were followed for at least 12 years. A preoperative VLPP <60cmH₂O was found to be the only independent factor that predicted recurrence of incontinence (HR= 5,31)²¹. In contrast, others have shown preoperative ALPP not to be related to cure rate or quality of life²²⁻²⁴ and hence the evidence about its clinical utility is still unclear.

ALPP has also been studied in incontinent men (**Table 1**). Barnard et al. found a VLPP > 100cmH₂O to have a high degree of predictability of success of Ad-Vance™ sling placement in men with post-prostatectomy incontinence²⁵. They concluded that VLPP offers an objective measure of the severity of post-prostatectomy incontinence compared with the 24-h pad use and pad weights and could therefore be useful as an aid in patient selection prior to male sling placement²⁵. These results, however, have to be confirmed by others to support ALPP validity in the evaluation of post-prostatectomy incontinence.

Detrusor Leak Point Pressure (DLPP)

Detrusor Leak Point Pressure (DLPP) is defined as the lowest detrusor pressure at which urine leakage occurs in the absence of either a detrusor contraction or increased intra-abdominal pressure²⁶. It is the measure of the resistance of the sphincter to detrusor pressure as an expulsive force²⁷ and is associated with low bladder compliance, which in turn is dependent on the viscoelastic properties of the detrusor, normal bladder wall composition and normal neural mechanisms¹⁷. The test can be performed during a stand-


ard urodynamic procedure, where the assessment of leakage is made by either observation or fluoroscopy, which is more accurate. DLPP was originally described by McGuire et al. in the evaluation of children with myelodysplasia²⁸. In their study of 42 patients, the authors found that patients with a DLPP > 40cmH₂O were at a greater risk for developing upper urinary tract deterioration, compared to those with a DLPP <40cmH₂O (**Table 1**). This was subsequently confirmed by Wang et al., who also demonstrated that a DLPP > 40cmH₂O, along with decreased bladder capacity and acontractile detrusor, were the main urodynamic parameters predicting the risk of upper urinary tract dilatation²⁹. Juma et al. showed patients with spinal cord injuries and a DLLP > 40 cmH₂O to have a 37% risk of developing significant upper urinary tract complications; the risk increased to 50% in those with DLPP > 70cmH₂O³⁰. The higher intravesical pressures which are transferred upwards and the co-existing vesico-ureteric reflux are deemed responsible for the resulting upper urinary tract dilatation and the ensuing renal impairment in these patients. The gradual loss of detrusor compliance, inevitably resulting from the elevated urethral pressure,³¹ is another contributing factor. An impaired external sphincter may potentially act protectively by permitting urine leakage during periods of high intravesical pressure. Taken all together, these results indicate that evaluation of DLPP during UDS may theoretically aid in identifying neurological patients in whom an early surgical intervention to decrease the urethral outlet resistance could probably be beneficial.

The accuracy of the standard DLPP measurements have been disputed by some authors. Combs et al., in their study of a modified technique for DLLP measurement, reported no deterioration of the upper urinary tract in several patients with DLLP > 40cmH₂O and suggested that the absolute values of the test reported previously were unreliable for treatment decision-making because of the lack of standardisation in determining values³².

Like in ALPP, several factors in the DLPP measurements have been recognised as potentially confounding (**Table 2**). Firstly, catheter size has been shown to influence DLPP, with large calibre catheters recording higher DLPP values, possibly because of urethral obstruction. This emphasises the need for using a small

urethral catheter for DLPP evaluation, the calibre of which, however, has not been standardised yet³³. Secondly, the fill rate may affect DLPP calculation, as it has been recognised that artificially fast filling decreases bladder compliance and raises detrusor pressure, thereby resulting in a falsely elevated DLPP³⁴. Slow fill rates are more crucial in gravity-type infusion systems as compared to pump infusion devices, which overcome inflow variations and are thus recommended²⁷. In 1996, a new technique for DLPP assessment in patients with spina bifida was described. DLPP was measured twice, firstly in the standard way (i.e. when leakage was noticed) and secondly after re-insertion of the catheter, which had been taken out after the first measurement³⁵. Patients with a DLPP > 40cmH₂O with the catheter in but <40cmH₂O with the catheter out had a 5% probability to develop hydronephrosis, in contrast to those with a DLPP > 40cmH₂O in both measurements, in whom the probability was 40%.³⁵ These findings outlined the importance of the accurate assessment of LPP.

Conclusions

Despite the extensive investigation of Leak Point Pressures over the last two decades and the plenty of data about their significance there is still much debate about their clinical applicability. ALPP still remains a test with inconsistencies in methodology and lack of standardisation which often fails to accurately differentiate ISD from UH. DLPP appears to be less controversial, nevertheless the repeat validity of the originally suggested cut-off values is limited and hence video-urodynamics remain a critical investigation in the diagnosis and follow up of patients with neurogenic urological conditions. The role of Leak Point Pressures in daily clinical practice will undoubtedly increase with the standardisation of the used methodology which will allow the tests to provide more reproducible results. 

Conflicts of interest

The authors declared no conflicts of interest.

Περίληψη

Οι Πιέσεις Διαφυγής (Leak Point Pressures) εισήχθησαν, ως διαγνωστικά εργαλεία, στην κλινική πρακτική του Ουροδυναμικού ελέγχου με σκοπό την πληρέστερη διερεύνηση των ασθενών. Έχουν περιγραφεί 2 πιέσεις διαφυγής: η Κοιλιακή Πίεση Διαφυγής (*Abdominal leak point pressure, ALPP*), η οποία παρέχει πληροφορίες για την παθοφυσιολογία της ακράτειας ούρων προσπαθείας και συγκεκριμένα για τον βαθμό συμμετοχής σε αυτή της λεγόμενης ανεπάρκειας του ενδογενούς σφιγκτήρα (*Intrinsic sphincter deficiency, ISD*),

και η Πίεση Διαφυγής του Εξωστήρα (*Detrusor Leak Point Pressure, DLPP*), η οποία βοηθά στην εκτίμηση του κινδύνου βλάβης του ανώτερου ουροποιητικού στους ασθενείς με νευρογενή δυσλειτουργία της κύστης. Η κλινική σημασία των 2 αυτών διαγνωστικών εργαλείων πολλές φορές αμφισβητείται, κυρίως λόγω των πολλών συγχυτικών παραγόντων που επηρεάζουν τον ακριβή υπολογισμό τους. Στο παρόν άρθρο ανασκοπείται η βιβλιογραφία για τον ρόλο των Πιέσεων Διαφυγής στην καθημερινή κλινική πράξη.

Λέξεις ευρητηριασμού

Κοιλιακή πίεση διαφυγής,
Πίεση διαφυγής εξωστήρα,
Ακράτεια ούρων προσπαθείας,
νευρογενής κύστη

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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Incidental prostate cancer detected in cystoprostatectomy specimens in patients treated with radical cystectomy for bladder cancer

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Abstract

Introduction: Prostate cancer (PCa) is a major global health concern as it is the most frequently diagnosed malignancy in both Europe and USA with greater proportion in elder men. Bladder cancer is the second most common malignancy of the urinary system after PCa. The purpose of this article is to report the prevalence, the characteristics and the clinical significance of incidental PCa in bladder cancer patients treated with radical cystectomy in our department.

Methods: We reviewed data from 64 patients who underwent radical cystectomy as during the years 2012 and 2013 in our department. Prostate cancer was described as

clinical significant when there were positive surgical margins, extraprostatic extension, Gleason score > 6 or tumor volume $\geq 0.5 \text{ cm}^3$.

Results: Incidental PCa was diagnosed in 22 patients (34.3%), 16 were diagnosed with Gleason score 6 disease (72.7%), 5 with Gleason score 7 (22.7%) and 1 with Gleason score 8 (4.6%). The mean age of PCa patients was 70.1 years. Extraprostatic extension was present in 2 patients (9.2%) and positive surgical margins in one patient (4.6%). Moreover in 2 patients the PCa tumor volume was above 0.5 cm^3 . As a result, 8 patients were diagnosed with clinical significant incidental PCa.

Key words

prostate cancer;
bladder cancer; radical
cystectomy

Citation

Fragkoulis C, Katsagounos G, Stasinopoulos K. Incidental prostate cancer detected in cystoprostatectomy specimens in patients treated with radical cystectomy for bladder cancer. *Hellenic Urology* 2016, 28 (4): 38-42

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Introduction

Prostate cancer (PCa) has become a major global health concern as it is the most frequently diagnosed malignancy in both Europe and USA with greater proportion in elder men¹. Established risk factors include increasing age, ethnic origin and heredity². Although the frequency of incidental detected cancers is the same among different parts of the world, the incidence of clinical PCa differs widely and exceeds the prevalence of the incidental PCa. In general, the vast majority of incidental prostate tumors are small, organ confined and considered to be clinically insignificant as the most of them will not affect the overall survival of the patient³.

Bladder cancer is the second most common malignancy of the urinary system after PCa⁴. It is estimated that 78% of bladder cancer cases are diagnosed in patients of age 55 years and older and 70% of patients present with non muscle invasive disease and have a fairly good prognosis⁵. As far as it concerns treatment for non muscle invasive bladder cancer, in all T1 tumors at high risk of progression or when we come across failure of intravesical treatment radical cystectomy is a valid option⁶. On the other hand, when muscle invasive bladder cancer is diagnosed, radical cystectomy is the gold standard treatment providing a 5 year survival of 50%⁷. In men, standard radical cystectomy includes removal of the bladder, prostate, seminal vesicles, distal ureters, and regional lymph nodes⁸.

The purpose of this article is to report the prevalence, the characteristics and the clinical significance of incidental PCa in bladder cancer patients treated with radical cystectomy in our department.

Material and Methods

We reviewed in a retrospective way the data from 64 male patients who underwent radical cystectomy as treatment for bladder cancer during the years 2012 and 2013 in our department. No patients with known history of PCa were excluded. Moreover, all patients where the bladder and the prostate were not fully removed were also excluded. Incidentally detected prostate cancer in the cystoprostatectomy specimens was classified into two groups according to clinical significance of the disease as clinical significant or insignificant. Prostate cancer was described as clinical significant when there were positive surgical margins, extraprostatic extension, Gleason score more than 6

TABLE 1

Definition of clinical significant prostate cancer in cystoprostatectomy specimens

1. Positive surgical margins
2. Extraprostatic extension
3. Gleason Score > 6
4. Tumor volume > 0.5 cm ³

TABLE 2

Bladder cancer patient characteristics

Number of patients	64
Mean age	69.2 years (range 47-86)
Pathologic stage	
pT1	5 patients (7.8%)
pT2	28 patients (43.8%)
pT3	19 patients (29.7%)
pT4	12 patients (18.7%)

or tumor volume bigger than 0.5 cm³ (Table 1). A typical pathological examination was performed in each cystoprostatectomy sample with the prostate being separated from the bladder, weighed separately, inked and fixed in 10% formalin. All patients were regularly followed up in order to detect primary bladder cancer recurrence or metastasis by computer tomography scan (CT) every six months for the first year after the operation and then annually. Moreover, patients where incidental PCa was also diagnosed were scheduled for serum PSA evaluation at every six months for the first postoperative year and thereafter twice each year. Biochemical recurrence was defined as two consecutive PSA values above 0.2 ng/dl⁹.

Results

The mean age of patients who underwent radical cystectomy as treatment for bladder cancer was 69.2 years. As far as it concerns histopathological characteristics, 5 patients presented with stage pT1 bladder cancer, 28 with pT2, 19 with pT3 and 12 with pT4 (Table 2). Incidental PCa was diagnosed in 22 patients

TABLE 3	<i>Incidental prostate cancer patient characteristics</i>
Number of patients	22 (34.3%)
Mean age	70.1 years (range 58-82)
Pathologic stage	
pT2a	15 patients (68.1%)
pT2b	3 patients (13.5%)
pT2c	2 patients (9.2%)
pT3	2 patients (9.2%)
Gleason score	
Gleason 6	16 patients (72.7%)
Gleason 7	5 patients (22.7%)
Gleason 8	1 patient (4.6%)
Surgical margins	
positive	1 patient (4.6%)
negative	21 patients (95.4%)
Tumor volume > 0.5 cm ³	2 patients (9.2%)
Clinical significant prostate cancer	8 patients (36.8%)

(34.3%). More specifically, from the total of 22 PCa patients, 16 were diagnosed with Gleason score 6 disease (72.7%), 5 with Gleason score 7 (22.7%) and 1 with Gleason score 8 (4.6%). The mean age of patients where PCa was detected was 70.1 years. Extraprostatic extension was present in 2 patients (9.2%) and positive surgical margins in one patient (4.6%). Moreover in 2 patients the PCa tumor volume was above 0.5 cm³. As a result, 8 patients were diagnosed with clinical significant incidental PCa (36.4%) (**Table 3**). No death related to PCa was recorded during follow up until the present day although 2 patients received adjuvant hormonal therapy.

Discussion

Incidental PCa is diagnosed in patients without prior symptoms related to the disease or suspicion after PSA tests or physical examination. Several studies have reported incidental PCa detection rates in radical cystectomy specimens ranging from 14%–60%^{10,11}. These variable detection rates among studies may be probably explained by the differences among sampled populations as well as the different methods of pathologic evaluation. For example, a lower incidence is reported in studies using 5 mm or 4 mm thick slices during the examination of prostate specimens^{12,13}. On the other hand, the highest prevalence was recorded by Winkler

et al who reported a rate of 60% using 2 mm thick slices¹⁴. In our study the detection rate of incidental PCa was 34.3% using a typical pathologic examination using 4-5 mm slices, results comparable with the data of many European studies^{14,15}.


Histologic criteria were used to describe incidental PCa as clinical significant including positive surgical margins, extraprostatic extension, Gleason score more than 6 or tumor volume bigger than 0.5cm³ **(Table 1)**. All tumors that do not meet the above criteria are thought to be clinically insignificant with low biological tumor risk and thus unlikely to cause any risk to the patients' health and survival. As a result, we discovered 8 patients with clinical significant PCa (36.8%). The rate of clinically significant PCa in similar studies is from 14% to 53% also influenced by sampled populations and histopathology protocols^{10,16}.

The possible relation of PCa and bladder cancer is described in several studies and may be explained by genetic factors as p53 and Rb genes pathology^{3,17}. During the median follow up time of 28 months, prostate cancer specific survival was 100%. On the other hand, 13 patients (20.3%) died from bladder cancer without any implication of PCa. In general, the combination of prostate and bladder cancer does not influence patients' survival and prognosis³. Moreover, patients with bladder cancer and incidentally discovered PCa

are not in a higher risk of death than patients suffering only from bladder cancer¹⁸. On the other hand, Buse et al reported that concomitant PCa is an independent prognostic factor for mortality after radical cystectomy for bladder cancer¹⁹. Our study shows no influence of incidental PCa in overall survival but detection rates of PCa are high (36.8%). As a result, these patients should be placed in a close follow up with PSA test as they may need adjuvant therapy in the future.

Conclusion

In conclusion, incidental clinical significant PCa is often

discovered in radical cystectomy specimens. As a result, all patients with concomitant PCa should be regularly monitored by PSA tests even if there are no strong evidence suggesting that their overall survival or their cancer specific survival is negatively affected. Moreover, it would be of great interest to perform a study in which the features of incidentally detected PCa are compared with those of PCa found in currently applied screening programs. 

Conflicts of interest

The authors declared no conflicts of interest.

Περίληψη

Σκοπός: Ο καρκίνος του προστάτη αποτελεί την συχνότερα διαγνωσμένη κακοήθεια σε άνδρες στην Ευρώπη και τις ΗΠΑ με μεγαλύτερη επίπτωση σε μεγάλες ηλικίες. Ο καρκίνος της ουροδόχου κύστης αποτελεί την δεύτερη σε συχνότητα κακοήθεια του ουροποιητικού. Σκοπός της μελέτης η καταγραφή της συχνότητας και της κλινικής σημασίας καρκίνου προστάτη ως τυχαίο εύρημα σε ασθενείς που υποβάλλονται σε ριζική κυστεκτομή ως θεραπεία καρκίνου κύστης.

Μέθοδος: Αναλύθηκαν τα δεδομένα 64 ασθενών που υποβλήθηκαν σε ριζική κυστεκτομή κατά τα έτη 2012 και 2013 στο τμήμα μας. Κλινικά σημαντικός καρκίνος

προστάτη ορίσθηκε όταν υπήρχαν θετικά χειρουργικά όρια, εξωπροστατική επέκταση, Gleason score > 6 ή όγκος νεοπλασματος $\geq 0,5 \text{ cm}^3$.

Λέξεις ευρητηριασμού

καρκίνος προστάτη, καρκίνος ουροδόχου κύστης, ριζική κυστεκτομή

Αποτελέσματα: Καρκίνος προστάτη ως τυχαίο εύρημα διαγνώσθηκε σε 22 ασθενείς (34,3%), 16 παρουσίασαν Gleason score 6 (72,7%), 5 Gleason score 7 (22,7%) και 1 Gleason score 8 (4,6%). Η μέση ηλικία ήταν 70,1 έτη. Εξωπροστατική επέκταση ανιχνεύθηκε σε 2 ασθενείς (9,2%) και θετικά χειρουργικά όρια σε έναν (4,6%) ενώ 2 είχαν νεοπλασματικό όγκο $\geq 0,5 \text{ cm}^3$. Συνολικά, 8 ασθενείς διαγνώσθηκαν με κλινικά σημαντικό καρκίνο προστάτη.

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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Urethroplasty: Progress and results from a tertiary reference centre

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Abstract

Introduction: Male urethral strictures are a common condition, usually treated with urethral dilatations and internal urethrotomy. The efficacy of the aforementioned methods, especially in the long-term, is limited compared to the open approach. Although open urethroplasty today is regarded as the gold standard in the treatment of urethral strictures, its use is very limited in the everyday clinical practice. At the 1st University Urology Clinic of the Laiko Hospital, urethroplasty is offered as treatment of choice in new stricture cases as well as in cases where conventional methods have failed.

Materials & Methods: From 2011 to 2016, 56 open urethroplasties have been performed. The majority was performed for anterior strictures, mostly due to endoscopic manipulation. All posterior strictures were due to traumatic injuries. The charac-

teristics of the strictures and previous approaches were registered during the preoperative assessment. All patients were treated with anastomotic and/or augmentation urethroplasty. In case of graft usage, the type and placement was recorded. All patients were postoperatively evaluated using a scheduled follow-up plan.

Results. The overall success was 83,9%, reaching 100% in cases with none or one previous treatment. The postoperative and long-term complications were analyzed.

The progress in the clinical practices applied is reported, in terms of postoperative evaluation methods and operative techniques.

Conclusion: Urethroplasty is an effective and durable solution for urethral strictures, which requires optimal familiarity with the surgical field and the available techniques.

Key words

urethroplasty; urethra; stricture; buccal mucosa

Introduction/Purpose

Male urethral strictures are a common condition in men, with an incidence of 229-627 cases per 100,000 high-risk men in literature and a total prevalence of approximate-

ly 0.6%^{1,7,8}. The incidence of the disease increases with age, especially after 55 years. In England, its incidence is estimated at 10 cases per 100,000 younger men, a number that doubles in men aged 55 years and exceeds 100

Citation

Kousournas G, Mitsos P, Levis P, Spanos N, Anastasiou I, Adamakis I, Mitropoulos D, Konstantinidis K. Urethroplasty: Progress and results from a tertiary reference centre. *Hellenic Urology* 2016, 28 (4): 43-46

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in ages of >65 years². In the US, it is estimated to affect 200 cases per 100,000 young men and >600 male patients aged > 65 years. Data from both countries record high numbers of hospital admissions annually for surgery and correspondingly very high costs and charges for the respective health systems^{4,8,14}.

The most common treatment options for the treatment of urethral strictures are dilation and visual internal urethrotomy; both techniques have been applied over the last 40 years³. When compared, both methods show similar efficacy and high relapse rates, exceeding 60% in the 2-year range⁵. Newer studies on the efficacy of internal urethrotomy show that its overall success rate does not exceed 30% at 3 years, with repeated interventions failing even at 100% after 3 sessions. Similar results and increased complications have been reported with the use of urethral stents⁵. Open urethroplasty is currently the gold standard for the treatment of male urethral strictures. Urethroplasty is based on the excision of the affected segment and the end-to-end anastomosis of the urethra, the use of grafts or flaps to increase the diameter of the stenotic segment or a combination of both¹⁵. All approaches have low morbidity rates and excellent long-term efficacy, of over 95% in some series^{7,12,13}. Today, the oral mucosa has largely substituted skin flaps. Despite the documented superiority of urethroplasty as compared to conventional methods, its use in everyday clinical practice remains limited^{9,10}.

At the 1st University Urology Clinic of the Laiko Hospital, urethroplasty has now largely replaced dilations and internal urethrotomy in the treatment of male urethral strictures, both as first-line therapy and in cases of failure of conventional methods. The purpose of this study is to record the results of urethroplasty procedures, with emphasis on the development of diagnostic and treatment techniques and their long-term efficacy.

Materials & Methods

56 urethroplasty procedures were carried out from 2011 to 2016. Of these, 53 were carried out from 2013 to today, with a mean follow-up of 21 months. Anatomically, 46 strictures involved the anterior and 10 the posterior urethra. The majority of anterior urethral strictures were due to endoscopic manipulations or catheter placement (27/46), followed by postinflam-

matory strictures (11/46), while there were also cases without a related background history, classified as idiopathic (8/46). Overall, posterior urethral strictures were due to preceding traumatic injuries (10/10)¹⁴. As regards previous treatments, the patients had been initially treated by endoscopic urethrotomy (0-12 operations, avg 2.3), dilation (0-12, avg 3.9), while 4 cases had been treated by urethroplasty, without further information being available. The length of the strictures was 1.5-14 cm (avg 3.6 cm). Mean Qmax at uroflowmetry was 7.7 ml/sec. The mean follow-up of patients was 21 months, while a monitoring protocol was followed with assessment upon removal of the catheter, 1, 3 and 6 months thereafter and then every six months.

Preoperatively, the cases were assessed by retrograde urethrography (RUG), voiding cystourethrography (VCUG), uroflowmetry, urethroscopy, urine cultures and urethral swabs⁶.

The majority of anterior urethral strictures were treated with augmented urethroplasty (34/46) and the rest with anastomotic urethroplasty. Posterior urethral strictures were treated with anastomotic urethroplasty (9/10), while one case was treated with augmented anastomotic urethroplasty. Oral mucosa was used in all cases of augmented urethroplasty. Buccal mucosa was used in 34 cases (bilateral grafts in 3 cases of panurethral strictures), labial mucosa in 1 case and a combination of labial and buccal mucosa in 1 case. Graft positioning was dorsal in 8 cases, ventral in 9, lateral in 8 and dorsolateral in 10 cases. In 26/35 of cases using buccal mucosa and in all cases using labial mucosa, this was followed by the stapling of the mucosa-providing position. Patients were discharged on the first postoperative day. In the cases of end-to-end anastomosis, the urinary catheter was removed after 3 weeks and in the cases of augmented urethroplasty after 4 weeks.

Postoperatively, the patients were assessed by voiding cystourethrography upon removal of the catheter, uroflowmetry and by urine residue assessment.

Results

A urethroplasty is considered successful if there is no need for further intervention after the surgery. Its overall success (no instrumentation rate) amounted to 83.9% (47/56). The individual rates were 80.95% for anastomotic urethroplasty and 91.4% for augmented urethroplasty. Importantly, the success rate in cases

with a history of one or no intervention (dilation or internal urethrotomy) was 100%. Dilation was performed in 7 cases (1-2 sessions). These concerned 4 cases of anastomotic urethroplasty, 1 augmented urethroplasty and 2 revisions of previous urethroplasty surgeries. A catheter was placed for 3 days postoperatively in 1 case of augmented urethroplasty. One case of augmented urethroplasty required reoperation due to recurrence of the stricture. The patients' mean Qmax after removal of the catheter was 16.6ml/sec. Immediate postoperative complications were limited to perineal haematomas (2/46 in anterior urethral strictures and 3/10 in posterior urethral strictures), which were treated conservatively and infections (4/46 of cases of anterior strictures), treated with antibiotics. Regarding the graft donor site in cases where such was used, overall, patients reported atypical symptoms, which however did not affect food intake, did not require any intervention and had been resolved at the time of catheter removal.

In developmental terms, during the diagnostic approach, clinical practice imposes the collection of as much information as possible about each case. Clinical practice has been complemented by urethral swab cultures, particularly in cases with a related history or multiple endoscopic interventions.

Intraoperatively, urethroscopy immediately preoperatively or intraoperatively, during the preparation of the urethra, has proven particularly valuable in the identification of the proximal edge of the stricture. Similarly, the placement of a guide wire during urethroscopy helps significantly in delimiting a correct line on incision.

In augmented urethroplasty, the position of the graft has been found not to affect the effectiveness of the operation. It is however particularly important to position and fix the graft in a position ensuring the sufficient contact thereof with the tissues, in order to ensure its perfusion. In this case, the dorsolateral positioning of the graft with mobilisation of the urethra to the middle of the dorsal surface provides optimal


results, especially in cases where the stricture is located in the curve of the bulbar urethra. For this reason, the diligent fixation of the graft to the surrounding tissues represents a crucial time of the operation.

In the anastomotic approach, the extensive mobilisation of the urethra ensures the optimal handling thereof, while the application of techniques such as the separation of the corpora cavernosa have allowed the management of long strictures. The fixation of the corpus spongiosum to the surrounding tissues has proven particularly useful for minimising tension.

Conclusions

Urethroplasty is an effective, durable solution for the management of strictures, with low morbidity rates and excellent patient satisfaction. The choice of each method is largely associated with the etiology, the position and length of the stricture, any previous interventions, co-existing local pathological findings, the surgeon's experience and patient preference. Urethroplasty has proved its place in the treatment of urethral strictures, both newly diagnosed and in cases where conventional methods have failed.

In any case, a thorough knowledge of the available surgical techniques and familiarity with the surgical field are required. Thorough preoperative planning and intraoperative flexibility are necessary for a customised approach, in order to offer the best solution to each case.

This study concerns the largest series of urethroplasty surgeries in our country, from an academic centre of reference in the field of reconstructive urology. The strengths of the study include the large sample of cases and the number and type of examined methods. It is particularly important that a large percentage of these cases relate to referrals, which demonstrates a significant effort on the part of the urological community to move away from conventional, ineffective practices. 

Conflicts of interest

The authors declared no conflicts of interest.

Περίληψη

Εισαγωγή: Τα ανδρικά στενώματα ουρήθρας, αποτελούν μια συχνή πάθηση, που αντιμετωπίζεται συνήθως με ενδοσκοπική ουρηθροτομή και διαστολές ουρήθρας. Η αποτελεσματικότητα, ιδιαίτερα σε εύρος χρόνου, αυτών των μεθόδων είναι πολύ μικρή σε σχέση με την ανοικτή προσπέλαση. Η ανοικτή ουρηθροπλαστική, μολονότι αποτελεί σήμερα τον χρυσό κανόνα για την αντιμετώπιση των στενωμάτων, εμφανίζει μικρή διείσδυση στην καθημερινή κλινική πρακτική. Στην Α' Πανεπιστημιακή Ουρολογική Κλινική του Λαϊκού Νοσοκομείου, η ουρηθροπλαστική προσφέρεται ως μέθοδος εκλογής τόσο σε νέα περιστατικά, όσο και σε περιπτώσεις αποτυχίας των συμβατικών μεθόδων.

Υλικό & Μέθοδοι: Από το 2011 έως το 2016, έχουν πραγματοποιηθεί 56 ουρηθροπλαστικές. Η πλειονότητα αφορούσε σε στενώματα πρόσθιας ουρήθρας και αιτιολογικά σχετιζόνταν με ενδοσκοπικούς χειρισμούς. Τα στενώματα της οπίσθιας ουρήθρας οφείλονταν στο σύνολό τους σε τραυ-

ματικές κακώσεις. Έγινε καταγραφή των χαρακτήρων των στενωμάτων και

των προηγηθέντων χειρισμών κατά την προεγχειρητική εκτίμηση και αντιμετωπίστηκαν με ουρηθροπλαστική, αυξητική ή/και αναστομωτική. Στις περιπτώσεις όπου χρησιμοποιήθηκε μόσχευμα, καταγράφηκε το είδος και η θέση αυτού. Οι ασθενείς τέθηκαν σε πρόγραμμα μετεγχειρητικής παρακολούθησης.

Αποτελέσματα: Συνολικά η επιτυχία ανήλθε στο 83,9% και έφτασε το 100%

στα περιστατικά με καθόλου ή μία προηγούμενη παρέμβαση. Αναλύθηκαν οι μετεγχειρητικές και απώτερες επιπλοκές καθώς και οι τροποποιήσεις στην προεγχειρητική προσέγγιση και διεγχειρητική αντιμετώπιση μέχρι σήμερα, ως εξέλιξη των κλινικά εφαρμοζόμενων πρακτικών.

Συμπεράσματα: Η ουρηθροπλαστική αποτελεί μια μέθοδο αποτελεσματική και ανθεκτική στο χρόνο, πλην απαιτεί όμως άριστη γνώση και των διαθέσιμων τεχνικών.

Λέξεις ευρητηριασμού

ουρηθροπλαστική, στένωμα, ουρήθρα, στοματικός βλεννογόνο

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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Age-adjusted PSA-density cut off values. Can the underdiagnosis and overdiagnosis of prostate cancer (PCa) and negative prostate biopsies be reduced at no cost?

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Abstract

Introduction - Purpose: Investigation of the usefulness of age-adjusted PSA-density cut off values for performing prostate biopsies. Focus on reducing the number of biopsies and the improvement of the overdiagnosis/underdiagnosis ratio of low-risk PCa.

Material & Method: In a series of 560 consecutive patients with transrectal ultrasound (TRUS) guided biopsy, we performed a series of calculations with different PSAD cut off values and the age-adjusted PSAD cut off values proposed by the authors (PSAD \geq 0.10 for age \leq 69, PSAD \geq 0.15 for age 70-75 and PSAD \geq 0.20 for age \geq 76).

Results: The overall diagnosis of PCa reached 41.6%. PCa was found in 10.13%, 23.48%, 53.33%, 73.16%, and a Gleason pattern of 4 or 5 was found in 6.6%, 6.46%, 20.83% and 53.24%, for PSAD values of $<$ 0.1, \geq 0.1 - $<$ 0.15, \geq 0.15 - $<$ 0.20 and \geq 0.20 respectively. The reduction of TRUS biopsies was calculated at 37.32% for the age-adjusted values (PSAD \geq

0.10 for age \leq 69, PSAD \geq 0.15 for age 70-75 and PSAD \geq 0.20 for age \geq 76) and at 26.42%, 50.00%, 66.07%, for PSAD cut off values of 0.1, 0.15 and 0.20 respectively. The estimated negative biopsies that could have been avoided per one non-diagnosis of low-risk PCa in men \leq 69 years was 16 for age-adjusted values, 12.1, 8.35 and 5.75 for PSAD cut off values of 0.10, 0.15 and 0.20 respectively. The ratio of non-diagnosis of low-risk PCa under 70 years to the non-diagnosis of low-risk PCa over 75 years was 1.1 for age-adjusted values and 5.5, 6.67, 7.0, 5.6 and 4.8 for PSAD cut off values of 0.1, 0.12, 0.14, 0.15 and 0.2 respectively.

Conclusion: According to our analysis, we recommend age-adjusted PSAD cut off values. In this way, we can greatly reduce negative TRUS biopsies, the related complications and the subsequent cost of overtreatment, with only a minimal loss of low-risk PCa diagnosis, in groups with theoretically treatable disease.

Citation

Mytilekas KV, Xouplidis K, Triantafyllidis G, Boutziona I, Apostolidis I, Moysidis K, Chatzimouratidis K. Age-adjusted PSA-density cut off values. Can the underdiagnosis and overdiagnosis of prostate cancer (PCa) and negative prostate biopsies be reduced at no cost? *Hellenic Urology* 2016, 28 (4): 47-56

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Introduction

The extremely costly prostate imaging and molecular biology tests are constantly under investigation, aiming firstly to reduce overdiagnosis and overtreatment of low-risk, clinically insignificant prostate cancer in the elderly, and, secondly, to increase the early diagnosis of non-metastatic, clinically significant and localised prostate cancer in young men with a long life expectancy and potentially treatable disease. The inexpensive, extremely fast and adverse effect-free calculation of prostate specific antigen density (PSAD = PSA/Transrectal prostate size), seems lately to have been forgotten, both in literature and in everyday clinical practice, at least with regard to the selection criteria of men with an indication for performing prostate biopsy.



Key words
prostate biopsy;
PSA density

Material-Method

Retrospectively, in a series of consecutive patients who had undergone grey scale TRUS prostate biopsy, the diagnosis rates of PCa and the presence of a Gleason pattern of 4 or 5 were analysed based on PSAD values. We then calculated the total reduction rate in the number of biopsies and negative biopsies if various proposed published PSAD cut off values for carrying out prostate biopsies or the age-adjusted PSAD cut off values proposed by the authors (≥ 0.10 for age ≤ 69 , ≥ 0.15 for age 70-75 and ≥ 0.20 for age ≥ 76 years) were applied. Indeed, we calculated the number of low-risk prostate cancers whose diagnosis would be missed using the compared different PSAD cut off values and the proposed age-adjusted values, as well as the age distribution of these undiagnosed low-risk PCas. We used the D'Amigo criteria for the definition of low-risk prostate cancer.

Results

The study involved 560 patients with a mean age of 67.91 (sd:8.65) years. The mean values of PSA and of the transrectally measured prostate tumour were estimated at 29.9 (sd:197.4) ng/dl and 58.02 cm³ (sd:32.84), respectively. Prostate size (V_{pro}) was statistically significantly reduced in men diagnosed with PCa (43.08 cm³ sd:18.04 TRUS positive vs. 68.68 cm³ sd:36.6 TRUS negative, $p < 0.0001$). The positive prostate biopsy rates, us-

ing the criterion of its size, ranged from 71.4% for V_{pro} < 20 cm³ to 9.9% for V_{pro} ≥ 80 cm³ in all patients and from 66.6% for V_{pro} < 20 cm³ to 7.8% for V_{pro} ≥ 80 cm³ among patients with PSA ≤ 10 ngr/dl (**figure 1**).

In patients with PSA ≤ 10 ngr/dl, the PCa diagnosis rate was estimated at 34.45% ($n=133/386$), while the diagnosis of PCa in all patients reached 41.6% ($n=233/560$), with a Gleason score of 6 (GS=3+3=6) in 62.7% ($n=146/233$) of all cancers (**figure 2**). The differences in the diagnosis of PCa between men aged < 70 years and > 75 years are presented in **figure 3**.

The reduction of TRUS biopsies was calculated at 37.32% if we applied the age-adjusted values (PSAD ≥ 0.10 for age ≤ 69 , PSAD ≥ 0.15 for age 70-75 and PSAD ≥ 0.20 for age ≥ 76) and at 26.42%, 50.00%, 66.07%, for PSAD cut off values of 0.1, 0.15 and 0.20 respectively. The reduction of negative TRUS biopsies was calculated at 53.82% for the age-adjusted values and at 40.67%, 71.56% and 84.4% for PSAD cut off values of 0.1, 0.15 and 0.20 respectively. The percentile non-diagnosis of prostate cancer (missed PCa) and low-risk prostate cancer (missed low risk PCa), by strictly applying different PSAD cut off values and its proposed age-adjusted values are shown in **figure 4**.

The individual non-diagnosis of low-risk PCa by age group and by different PSAD cut off values are shown in **figure 5**. Using PSAD cut off values of 0.15 and 0.20, 44.4% and 76.19% of low-risk PCa would be missed in men < 70 years, while with the proposed age-adjusted values and a PSAD cut off of = 0.10, only 17.46% would be missed. However, using the proposed age-adjusted PSAD values would simultaneously miss low-risk PCa diagnosis in 71.43% of men ≥ 76 years, vs. only 14.28% respectively for a PSAD cut off of = 0.10.

The relative ratio between the non-diagnosis of low-risk PCa in men < 70 years ("undesirable" missed low risk PCa ≤ 69 years) and the non-diagnosis of low-risk PCa in men > 75 years ("desirable" missed low risk PCa ≥ 76 years) for the proposed age-adjusted PSAD values and several other proposed PSAD cut off values (0.10, 0.12, 0.14, 0.15 and 0.20) are shown in **figure 6**.

The ratio of negative biopsies that could have been avoided at the cost of one non-diagnosis of low-risk PCa only in men ≤ 69 years (avoided negative biopsies/one missed low risk PCa ≤ 69 years) was estimat-

Age-adjusted PSA-density cut off values. Can the underdiagnosis and overdiagnosis of prostate cancer (PCa) and negative prostate biopsies be reduced at no cost?, p. 47-54

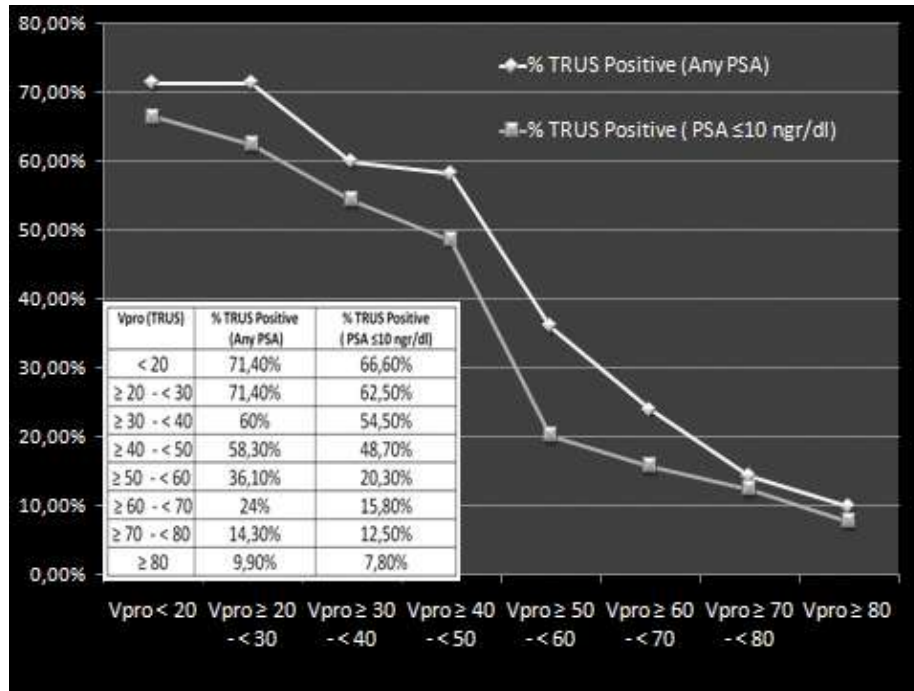


Figure 1. PCa diagnosis based on prostate volume with any PSA and with PSA ≤10 ngr/dl

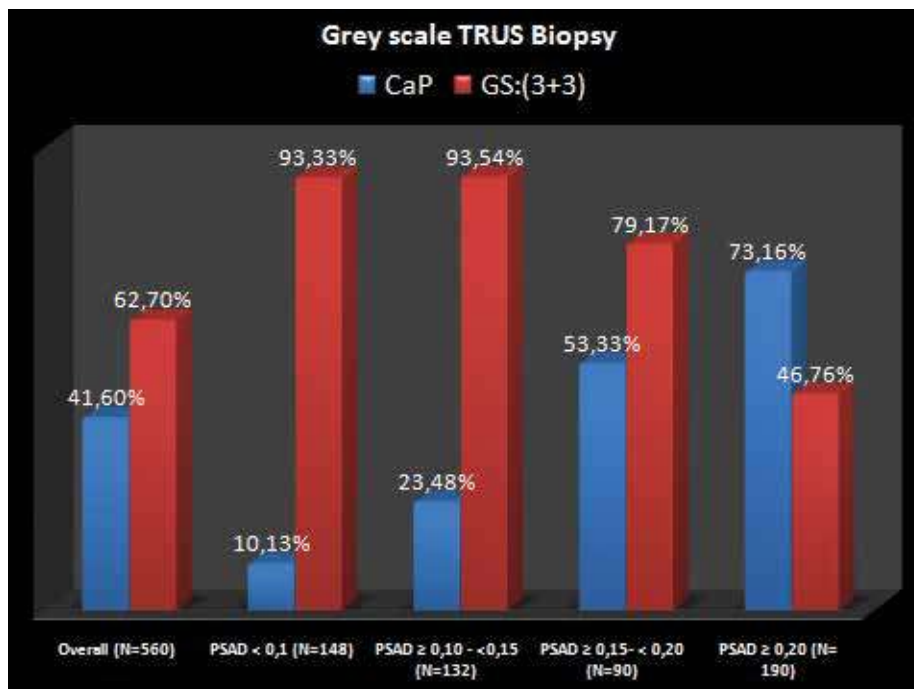


Figure 2. Overall and based on PSAD prostate cancer diagnosis and % of Gleason sum= 3+3= 6

ed at 16 for the age-adjusted values and at 12.1, 8.35 and 5.75 for PSAD cut off values of 0.10, 0.15 and 0.20 respectively. (figure 7)

Discussion

Both in the study patients as a whole and by PSA-based subgroups, the diagnosis of PCa seems to agree with the results of other authors regarding the contribution

of transrectal ultrasound-guided systematic prostate biopsies in the diagnosis of PCa. (Table 1)

In an interesting study by Verma A et al., with 521 patients, comparing total PSA, digital rectal examination of the prostate (DRE) and the free to total PSA ratio (f/t PSA), only the f/t PSA ratio was found to be a strong prognostic factor for a positive prostate biopsy. In the subsequent comparison between the f/t PSA

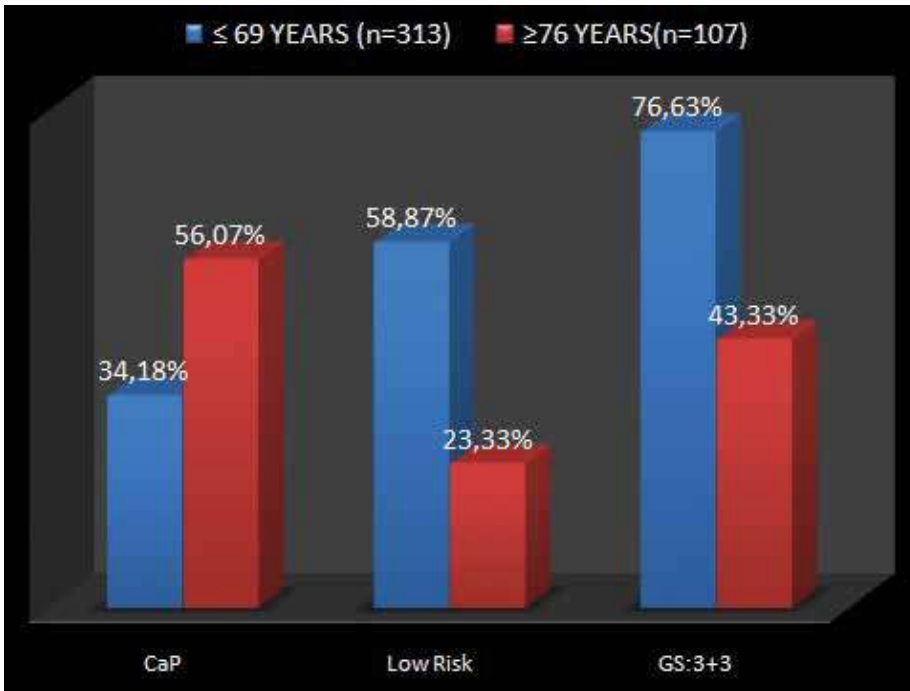


Figure 3. PCa diagnosis based on age below 70 years old and above 75 years old

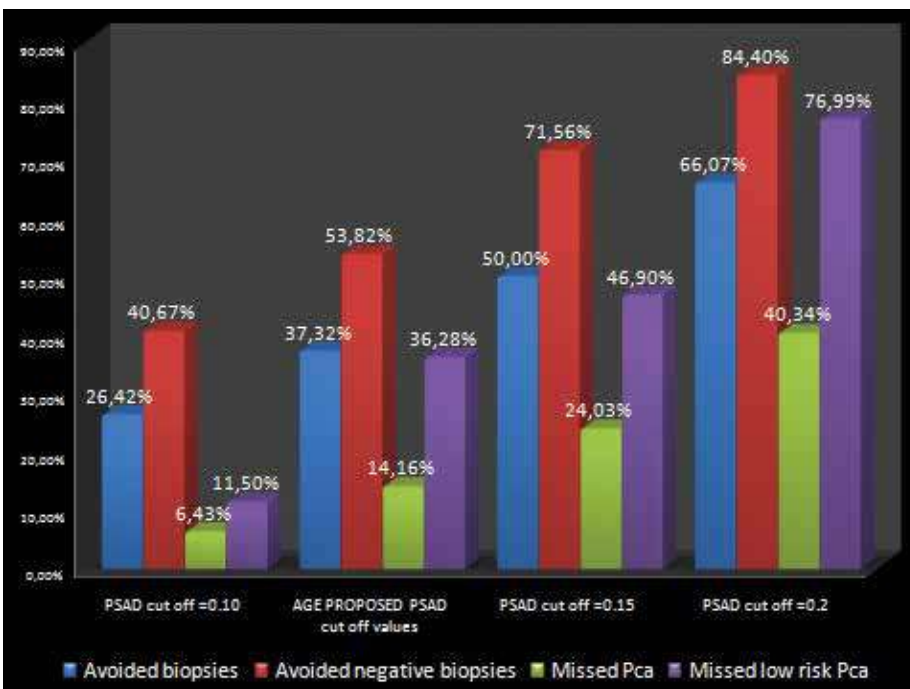


Figure 4. Avoided biopsies, avoided negative biopsies and missed PCa based on different PSAD cut off values

ratio and PSA density (PSAD), only PSAD was found to be a strong prognostic factor for PCa diagnosis. Indeed, PSAD was also a strong prognostic factor for disease aggressiveness¹. In this study also, the probability of PCa diagnosis increases linearly with the increase in PSAD values. Simultaneously, a Gleason pattern of 4 or 5 was found in 6.6%, 6.46%, 20.83% and 53.24% with PSAD values of < 0.1, ≤ 0.1 - <0.15, ≤0.15

- <0.20 and ≥ 0.20 respectively. In recent years, PSA density appears to play a constant and central role in the selection criteria of patients with an indication for active surveillance^{2,3,4,5} and the final upstaging of patients with a primary Gleason sum = 6 during transrectal prostate biopsy (TRUS Biopsy GS=3+3), always compared with the final histopathological diagnosis after delayed radical prostatectomy⁴. Furthermore, in

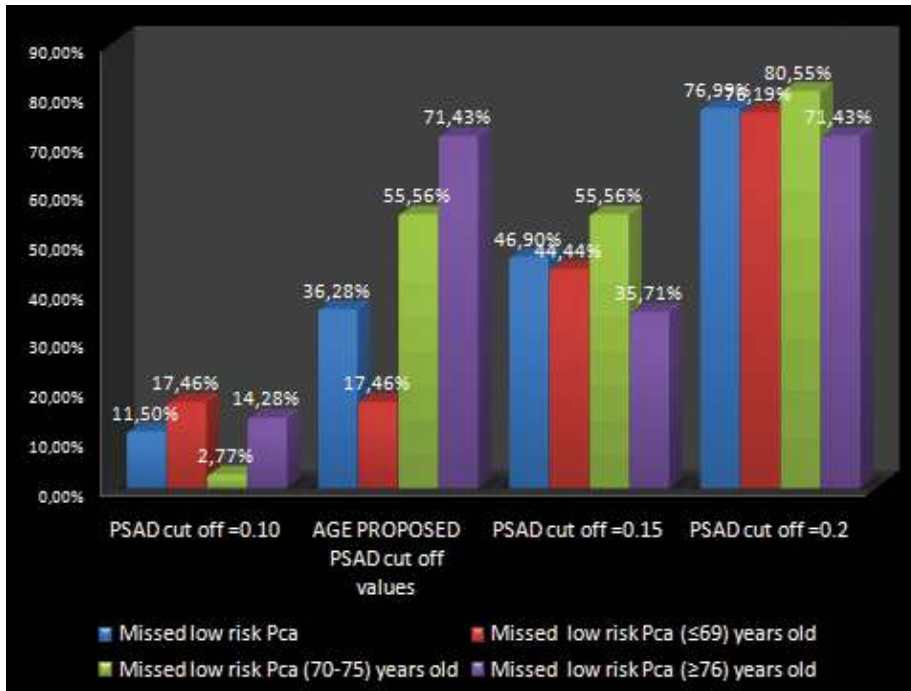


Figure 5. Missed low risk PCa based on age groups and different PSAD cut off values

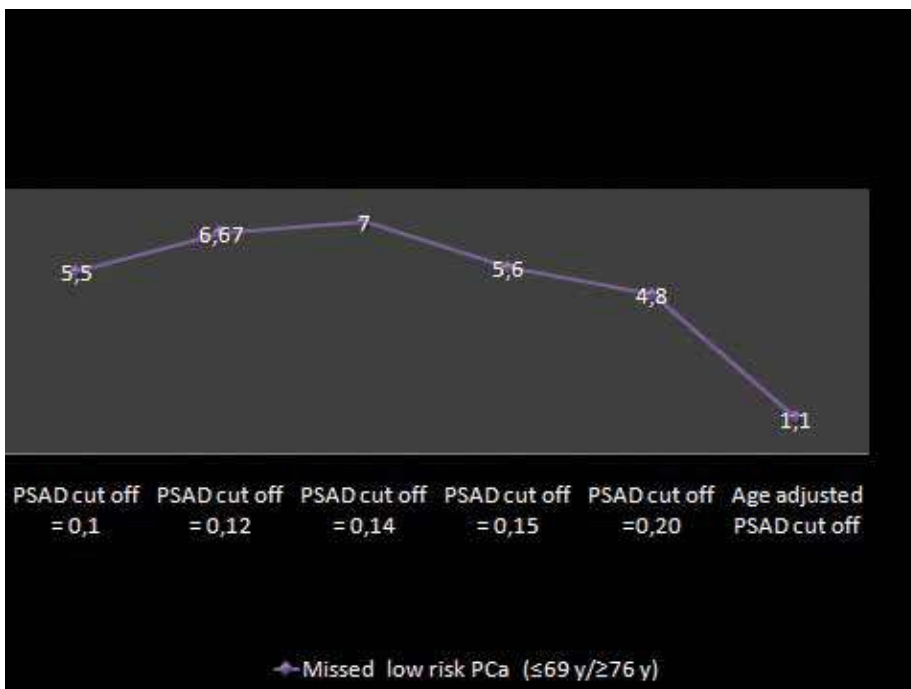


Figure 6. Ratio between missed diagnosis of low risk PCa between ages below 70 and above 75 years, with different PSAD cut off values

accordance with G Agarwal et al., only a PSADensity cut off value of ≥ 0.15 was found to be significantly correlated with the future upstaging of patients with PCa and active surveillance. However, no statistically significant difference was found in the metastasis-free interval and overall survival between those who were finally treated and those who remained in active surveillance. Indeed, according to Agarwal G

et al., this did not change even when comparing patients ≥ 70 years to patients < 70 years⁵. According to Cristea O et al., in patients with low-risk PCa, a positive DRE and PSAD of ≥ 0.20 advocate for immediate treatment, while an age of > 70 years for active surveillance⁶. Therefore, a great moral question has recently emerged. Why submit a man older than 70 years to a prostate biopsy with $PSA \leq 10$ ngr/dl, with a nega-

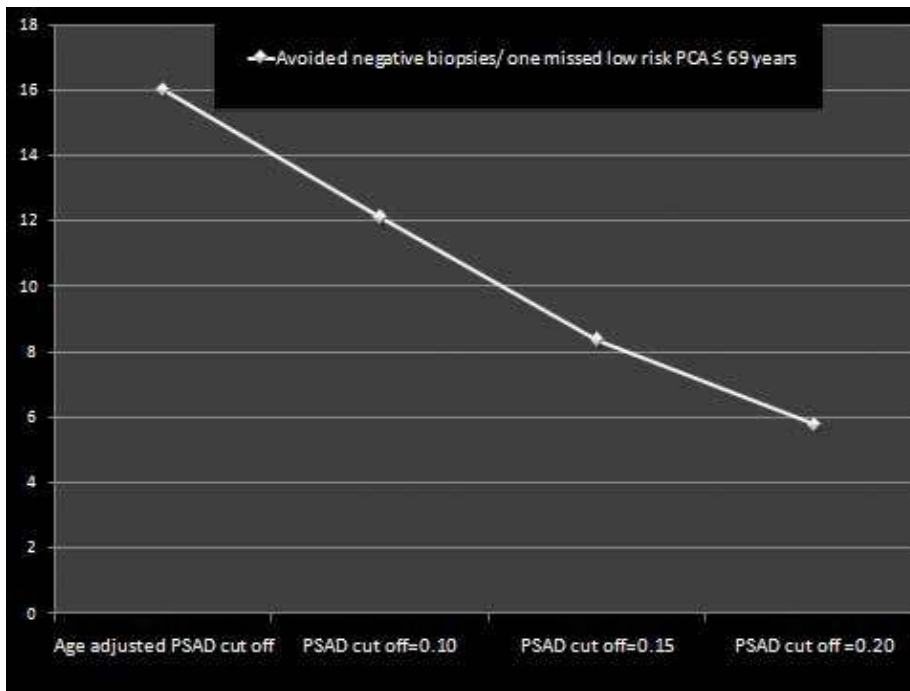


Figure 7. Number of avoided negative biopsies per one missed low risk PCa ≤ 69 years with different PSAD cut off values

tive DRE and PSAD <0.15 if I then just propose that I monitor him?

The present age classification of men into groups of <70 years, 70-75 years and >75 years was conducted partly on conventional terms. We took into account however that the average life expectancy at birth for Greek men is 78.6 years (European Health Report of the World Health Organization, 2013). We also took into consideration that since 1994 there is evidence that the ten-year cancer specific survival in clinically localised low-risk PCa, without any radical treatment but only delayed androgen deprivation, reaches 87%⁷. Indeed, since 2012 we know that overall survival and specific 12-year prostate cancer survival do not improve by radical prostatectomy over simple surveillance in patients with low-risk localised PCa and PSA ≤ 10 ng/dl⁸. Therefore, of the patients with low-risk PCa and age ≥ 75 years, the vast majority will largely exceed the average expected survival without diagnosis and, mainly, without treatment for prostate cancer. Additionally, overtreatment provenly leads to a deterioration of quality of life⁹ and increased cost¹⁰, without any significant effect on overall survival, especially amongst very old men. However, this does not seem to be the case for young adults, even with low-risk prostate cancer.

According to Godtman RA et al., it remains doubtful whether young men with a long life expectancy, even with low-risk PCa, have an indication for active surveillance¹¹. Therefore, the diagnosis even of low-risk clinically localised PCa with a possibility of radical treatment should be the target for young adults aged <70 years, who by definition have a life expectancy of at least 15-20 years.

According to the results of this study, it appears that the reduction in the number of negative biopsies, missing low-risk PCa diagnosis in the elderly, with a minimum under-diagnosis of low-risk PCa in young men, is more effectively approached using the age-adjusted PSAD cut off values as an indication for biopsy. By definition, the lower the PSAD value we use in daily practice and the less weighted it is based on age, the more biopsies in all age groups will need to be conducted while low-risk PCa diagnosis will disproportionately increase in elderly patients, with high rates of over-diagnosis and overtreatment.

According to the results of our analysis (**figure 6**), it is evident that in the attempt to avoid Overdiagnosis of low-risk PCa in elderly patients, as expressed by the non-diagnosis of low-risk PCa in ages >75, at the lowest possible cost of Underdiagnosis, as expressed by the


TABLE 1		<i>Overall PCa diagnosis with TRUS biopsy. Our data and a quick review (pubmed) of published data</i>					
Author et al.	Number of patients	% of CaP detection	PSA ≤ 4	PSA 4-10	PSA > 20	PSA Any	AUR
Rodríguez-Patrón Rodríguez R	6,000	39.1%				*	
Marčić A	5,678	30.34%				*	
Djavan B	1,051	22%		*			
Ahyai SA	855	23.1%	*				
Benchikh El Fegoun A	770	47%				*	
Our Data	560	41.6%	13.9%	36.6%	78.3%	41.6%	19%
Pozzi E	460	32.17%				*	
Shaida N	388	74.48%			*		
Aganovic D	379	29.6%				*	
Ma H	365	23.84%		*			
Zheng XY	237	18.6%		*			
Moslemi MK	226	51%		*			
Gan VH	177	33.3%				*	
Li X	116	25%				*	
Kravchick S	63	7.9%					*

non-diagnosis of low-risk PCa in ages <70 with potentially treatable disease, the age-adjusted PSAD cut off values proposed by the authors achieve the most advantageous ratio. While for example with a PSAD cut off value of = 0.15 for each elderly aged > 75 where we avoid overdiagnosis of low-risk PCa we miss 5.6 patients aged <70 years with low-risk PCa, with the age-adjusted PSAD values we propose, we only miss 1.1 patients.

A limitation of the study concerns the retrospective nature of the data analysis and the lack of the prospective application of any generally accepted PSAD cut off value by all who conduct prostate biopsies in clinical practice. However, the data analysis shows that, in everyday clinical practice, the indication for a prostate biopsy in older men follows stricter criteria than for younger patients, even if only empirically. This justifies the difference in the overall diagnosis of PCa but also

of low-risk PCa between men <70 and >75 years and in the mean PSA value (after exclusion of patients with PSA >100ng/dl), among men <70 years (mean PSA = 10.43, sd:12.58) and men >75 years (mean PSA = 17.05, sd: 23.04, p <005) of the study.

Conclusion

According to our analysis, we propose that the PSAD cut off values for prostate biopsy indications be age-adjusted. In this way, we can greatly reduce negative TRUS biopsies, the related complications and the subsequent cost of overtreatment, with only a minimal loss of low-risk PCa diagnosis, in groups with theoretically treatable disease. 

Conflicts of interest

The authors declared no conflicts of interest.

Περίληψη

Σκοπός: Σκοπός η δίχως κόστος ελάττωση του ολικού αριθμού των βιοψιών του προστάτη, η ελάττωση των αρνητικών βιοψιών αλλά και η ελάττωση της διάγνωσης χαμηλού κινδύνου καρκίνου σε υπερήλικες (υπερδιάγνωση-υπερθεραπεία) με την μικρότερη δυνατή υποδιάγνωση χαμηλού κινδύνου καρκίνου σε νεαρούς ενήλικες με δυνητικά θεραπεύσιμη νόσο.

Μέθοδος: Σε μια σειρά διαδοχικών ασθενών με διορθικά καθοδηγούμενη βιοψία του προστάτη (TRUS), πραγματοποιήσαμε μια σειρά από υπολογισμούς με διαφορετικές ελάχιστες τιμές PSAD αλλά και των προτεινόμενων ηλικιακά προσαρμοσμένων κατώτερων τιμών PSAD ($\geq 0,10$ για ηλικία ≤ 69 , $\geq 0,15$ για 70-75 και $\geq 0,20$ για ≥ 76 ετών).

Αποτελέσματα: Η μείωση των TRUS βιοψιών υπολογίστηκε

στο 37,32% για τις ηλικιακά προσαρμοσμένες τιμές του PSAD και στο 26,42%, 50,00%, 66,07% για ελάχιστες τιμές PSAD 0,1, 0,15 και 0,20 αντίστοιχα. Οι υπολογιζόμενες αρνητικές βιοψίες που θα μπορούσαν να έχουν αποφευχθεί ανά μια μη διάγνωση χαμηλού κινδύνου CaP σε άντρες ≤ 69 ετών, ήταν 16 για τις ηλικιακά προσαρμοσμένες τιμές, 12,1, 8,35 και 5,75 για ελάχιστες τιμές PSAD 0,10, 0,15 και 0,20, αντίστοιχα.

Συμπέρασμα: Προτείνουμε ελάχιστες τιμές PSAD ηλικιακά προσαρμοσμένες με σκοπό την μείωση των αρνητικών βιοψιών, των επιπλοκών, αλλά και του κόστους της υπερθεραπείας σε υπερήλικες με μόνο μια ελάχιστη απώλεια του χαμηλού κινδύνου PCa, στις ηλικίες με θεωρητικά θεραπεύσιμη νόσο.

Λέξεις ευρετηριασμού

βιοψία προστάτη,
καρκίνος προστάτη

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CASE REPORT

Presentation of the first successful ureter excision and replacement by a synthetic pyelo-cystic bypass graft (detour) in a patient with solitary kidney

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Abstract

Introduction: The use of subcutaneous pyelo-cystic bypass grafts (detours) has been described as a minimally invasive method for treating extensive ureteral lesions, usually of oncological, radiation-induced or iatrogenic aetiology. We present the first case of use of this graft in open surgery, for ureter replacement.

Material & Methods: An 81 year-old patient with a solitary left kidney visited us with signs of obstructive anuria. He was managed in an emergency setting by placement of a pig tail catheter, while the ensuing investigation revealed the presence of a tumour in the upper tertile of the left ureter, covering an area that did not allow a conservative operation. Given its increased morbidity and the patient's refusal to be set on permanent extrarenal dialysis, we concurrently executed an extensive ureterectomy, from the level of the ureteropelvic junction to the vesicoureteral junction and replacement of the affected ureter by a synthetic de-

tour graft, anastomosed at both ends with the pelvis and the urinary bladder. Intraoperatively, we checked the pyelocalyx system to rule out the presence of any other tumour and placed a prophylactic nephrostomy.

Results: The patient was discharged on the 12th postoperative day in good overall condition. On the 30th postoperative day and after a nephrostomography to rule out possible leaks, the nephrostomy, the drain and the urinary catheter were removed. This was followed by a chemotherapy regimen, which was not completed. Six months after surgery, the patient is dis-

ease-free based on imaging criteria and has borderline normal renal function.

Conclusions: Synthetic pyelo-cystic bypass grafts (detours) designed for subcutaneous use can safely be used in open oncological or other operations for ureter replacement in carefully selected patients.

Key words

upper urinary tract tumors;
 solitary kidney; pyelovesical
 ureteral bypass; detour

Citation

Nikolopoulos P, Tzelepis V, Kontaxis A, Garbis I, Chalnaris I, Papandropoulos I. Presentation of the first successful ureter excision and replacement in a monorenal patient using a synthetic pyelo-cystic bypass graft (detour). *Hellenic Urology* 2016, 28 (4): 55-62

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Introduction

Urothelial tumours are the fourth most common tumour type in humans, localised in the upper (pyelocalyx system and ureter) or lower (urinary bladder and urethra) urinary tract. Although rarer than those of the urinary bladder (5-10% vs. 90-95%), urothelial tumours of the upper urinary tract are invasive at diagnosis at a rate of 60%. They are also more frequent in men between the ages of 70 and 90, while in 17% of cases there is a coexisting tumour in the bladder at diagnosis. Tumour recurrence after treatment occurs in 22-47% of patients in the urinary bladder and in 2-6% in the drainage system of the other kidney. The main risk factors are chronic smoking and occupational exposure to aromatic amines. The treatment of choice is open or laparoscopic radical nephroureterectomy. An alternative for patients with solitary kidney or low risk tumors is kidney sparing surgery, using endoscopic or open conservative techniques^{1,2}.

We present the case of a patient with a tumour in the ureter of a functional solitary kidney, where, due to the existence of comorbidity and the local extent of the disease, we decided to perform ureterectomy and replacement of the ureter by a synthetic pyelo-cystic bypass graft (detour).

Material and method

A 82 year-old patient was admitted to the Emergency Department of the Hospital with anuria that had started twenty-four hours ago. He also reported intermittent episodes of painless macroscopic haematuria that had started three months ago. The laboratory tests confirmed the presence of acute renal failure (urea: 104 mg/dl and creatinine 5.9 mg/dl), while the ultrasound revealed significant dilatation of the left kidney, a small size, not functional right kidney and an empty urinary bladder. His past medical history reported diabetes mellitus, coronary artery disease, an unclear history of a non-functional right kidney after endovascular placement of an aortoiliac graft for the restoration of an aortic aneurysm, incipient Parkinson's disease and overall impaired mobility in his legs after spinal surgery. The patient was urgently taken to the operating room, where, under general anaesthesia and fluoroscopic guidance, a pig tail No 7Fr/24 cm catheter was successfully placed (**figure 1**). The patient entered a polyuric phase and within 48 hours his urea and cre-



Figure 1. Emergency treatment of anuria with pig tail placement



Figure 2. Preoperative abdominal CT scan



Figure 3. Ureter tumour - endoscopic image



Figure 4. Lateral lumbar incision

atinine values returned to normal levels for the patient (70 mg/dl and 1.6 mg/dl respectively).

After the management of the emergency, the patient underwent further diagnostic evaluation. Already when the pig tail catheter was placed, urine was collected for cytological examination, whose results were strongly positive for malignancy. The retrograde urethrography performed at the same time revealed a typical filling defect in the upper tertile of the ureter, with blood leakage (positive Chevassu sign) during advancement of the catheter. Due to the presence of the pig tail catheter, the CT scan of the chest, upper and lower abdomen and retroperitoneum was not of particular diagnostic value; however, it ruled out the presence of secondary localisations in the lungs and the solid organs of the abdomen (**figure 2**). There was therefore a strong suspicion of the presence of an urothelial carcinoma in the drainage system of the left kidney, which was confirmed by rigid ureteroscopy, which showed an extensive solid tumour from the boundary of the middle with the upper tertile of the left ureter to about 1 cm below the level of the ureteropelvic junction (**figure 3**).

The visual image and the extent of the disease ruled out any endoscopic treatment, as well as the possibility of segmental ureterectomy and end-to-end anastomosis. On the other hand, the patient's impaired general condition, together with his refusal to be set directly on permanent extrarenal dialysis, meant that radical surgery was not an option. Given our experience in using synthetic pyelo-cystic grafts (detours) as a minimally invasive method of bypassing usually malignant ureteral obstructions, we opted to attempt to place one,

not via the subcutaneous route, which is designed and established, but with anastomosis in the ureteropelvic junction and the urinary bladder, in the already open surgical field.

Under combined general endotracheal anaesthesia and epidural analgesia and with the patient in a kidney surgery position, we directly accessed the retroperitoneum via a standard lateral lumbar incision, identified and prepared the affected ureter (**figure 4, 5**). At a distance of 1 cm distally of the ureteropelvic junction, we noted a distended section of the ureter (about 4 cm long), hard at palpation, containing a tumour, which visually gave the impression of extramural extension. Given that the endoscopy of the pyelocalyx system was not possible in the preceding ureteroscopy and in order to rule out a coexisting lesion in a more central position, we made a small incision in healthy tissue, at the level of the ureteropelvic junction, through which we advanced the flexible cystoscope and examined the pyelocalyx system, to the extent possible, which was disease-free. This was followed by the preparation of the entire length of the ureter, to the level of the iliac vessels, by a cross-section at the level of the ureteropelvic junction and its thorough ligation, to prevent the dispersion of tumour cells. For safety reasons, a nephrostomy tube was then placed, as planned, via the open pelvis, firstly to allow the postoperative contrast study of the pyelocalyx system and the graft, and secondly, so that it would remain there to provide a final solution, if the attempt failed.

The pyelo-cystic graft (Detour - Porges) consists of an outer polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) tube with



Figure 5. Preparation of ureteropelvic junction



Figure 6. Detour graft



Figure 7. Anastomosis of the graft in the pelvis



Figure 8. Incision to access the graft and urinary bladder

a diameter of 27 Fr, reinforced with plastic rings to avoiding bending and an inner silicone tube with a diameter of 17 Fr, which protrudes through the outer tube into both ends of the graft³ (**figure 6**). The upper end of the detour was placed inside the pelvis and was anastomosed thereto using individual Vicryl 3/0 sutures, following a technique similar to that of Hynes - Anderson pyeloplasty, paying special attention to ensure the needle of the suture passed only through the PTFE layer of the outer tube, without piercing the underlying silicone tube (**figure 7**). The distal end of the detour was left free in the retroperitoneum, in parallel with the prepared ureter, which was cut at its upper end, to be anastomosed with the urinary bladder through another incision and access. We placed a drainage tube in the area of the pelvis-graft anastomosis, and the lumbar incision was then typically closed.

With the patient supine, we performed a Phanesteil incision, with a slight leftwards extension, according to the Gibson approach (**figure 8**). We prepared the urinary bladder and, after the peritoneum was pushed back, we identified the iliac vessels, and above these we palpated and gently pulled the ureter - with its central end ligated and free - and the distal end of the graft into the surgical field. There followed the incision and ligation of the ureter at the level of the vesicoureteral junction and the removal of the specimen (**figure 9**). The urinary bladder was then opened, through two guide sutures, at the level of the dome and the distal end of the graft was placed therein, after being adjusted and cut to the desired length. The bladder incision was sutured in two layers, while individual fixating Vicryl 3/0 sutures were placed between the bladder wall and the graft's outer PTFE tube (**figure 10**). A drainage tube was placed in the Retzius space and the operation was com-



Figure 9. Ureterectomy preparation

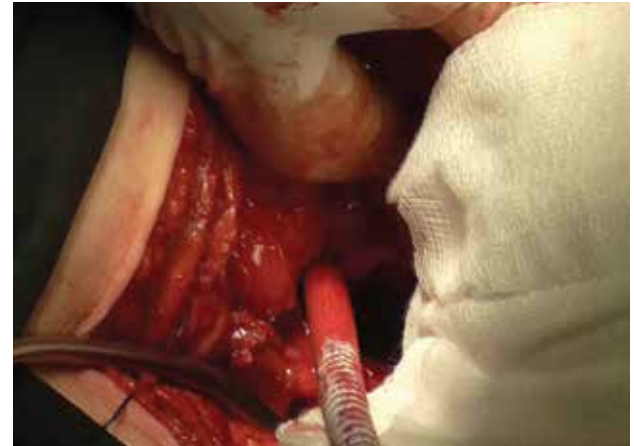


Figure 10. Anastomosis of the graft in the urinary bladder



Figure 11. Postoperative nephrostomography

pleted with closure of the incision in layers. The patient recovered easily and was taken to his ward.

Results

The patient's immediate postoperative course was uneventful. As he already had preoperative haematocrit levels of 30%, the patient had to be transfused with two blood units. His postoperative renal function stabilised at creatinine levels of 1.6-1.8 mg/dl. The epidural catheter was removed on the second postoperative day and the drainage tube in the Retzius space on the third postoperative day. We observed urine leakage of about 150-200 cc per day from the drainage of the kidney, which immediately dropped to 30-50 cc, keeping the nephrostomy

open. For this reason, the patient was discharged from the hospital on the twelfth postoperative day, in good general condition, but bearing the nephrostomy, the drainage and the Foley catheter. We maintained daily contact with his relatives, who informed us about the content of the drainage, which became null on the twentieth postoperative day, with the nephrostomy closed. On the thirtieth postoperative day, the patient underwent an antegrade nephrostomography at the hospital, which did not reveal any signs of leakage, so first the nephrostomy and the urinary catheter and, after two days, the drainage were removed (**figure 11**).

The histological examination of the specimen showed the development of a high-grade urothelial carcinoma, invading the entire thickness of the ureter wall and positive local lymph nodes as well. The patient was referred to the Oncology clinic, where he underwent one platinum-based systemic chemotherapy session, with serious side effects, due to which he did not continue with subsequent cycles.

Six months after surgery, the patient maintains stable renal function and urine drainage is unproblematic. His cytological urine examination at three and six months were negative for malignancy, while the upper - lower abdomen CT at the fifth postoperative month has not so far revealed any visible disease using imaging criteria. However, the patient had to be hospitalised twice, first due to a febrile urinary tract infection, which was treated conservatively with antibiotics, and the second time due to deep vein thrombosis, for which he was set on chronic anticoagulant therapy. Due to the deterioration of his neurological and mobility problems, the patient is now permanently decu-



bitus, which we believe justifies our original choice for salvaging the kidney and avoiding extrarenal dialysis, although it seems to be risky for the oncological result.

Discussion

Upper urinary tract tumors are the second most common urothelial tumours, after those of the urinary bladder, but, unlike those, in over 60% of cases, they appear invasive at diagnosis, with relatively poor prognosis. Radical nephroureterectomy remains the treatment of choice; however, with the advancement of technology, more conservative operations, aimed at salvaging the kidney, appear to be gaining ground. These mainly concern the endoscopic (by ureteroscope or percutaneous) removal of small tumours, mainly by using lasers or, more rarely, open segmental ureterectomy and end-to-end anastomosis or other diversions, undertaken in cases of solitary kidneys or bilateral disease, in order to maintain satisfactory renal function without the need for extrarenal dialysis. The same techniques can be applied, as a first approach, in cases of low-risk tumours (monofocal, size <1 cm, with a low-grade appearance in the urine cytology examination and/or histological examination after ureteroscopy and biopsy, without signs of invasive disease in the CT imaging study)¹. In any case, the application of conservative surgical techniques entails an increased risk of relapse and requires close monitoring. Another drawback of these techniques appears to be the downstaging of the disease, at a rate reaching 25%, due to the inability to detect small lesions in difficult positions, despite progress in endourology equipment⁴.

Although the situation seems straightforward as regards low-risk tumours or patients with a normally functional other kidney, it is always a challenge to manage the disease in patients with a solitary kidney. In these cases, it is clear that besides the imaging, endoscopic or histological features of the disease, factors such as age, general condition, and even the possibility of easy access to dialysis units and, finally, the patient's wishes, must be taken into account. Especially in cases of extensive invasive tumours, where routine endoscopic procedures are not possible, the urologist is often called to adopt novel therapeutic modalities to achieve the desired result. In a patient with an extensive pelvic tumour in a solitary kidney, Williams et al. applied a combination of preoperative chemotherapy and percutaneous electrotony, using a resectoscope⁵. Rocco et al. managed a pelvic tumour ex-

tending in the middle and lower calyx by ligating the renal artery branches that perfuse the middle and lower third of the kidney, electrotony of the tumour and ureterocalicostomy⁶. Holmang et al. attempted to manage pelvic or ureter tumours in patients with solitary kidney with segmental resection and autotransplantation⁷. Bazeed et al. used a free peritoneum graft to replace the pelvis or upper third of the ureter in wide resections for large tumours⁸, while Pettersson et al. published a similar case earlier, which was managed by pelvic and ureteral resection, autotransplantation and calicovesicostomy⁹. The common features of these complex attempts were the high recurrence rates and the poor results in maintaining sufficient renal function.

In our case, we had an elderly patient with invasive ureter disease, to an extent that did not allow the application of endoscopic procedures or segmental ureterectomy and end-to-end anastomosis, accompanied by severe comorbidities, which made any attempt to radical surgery, as well as the possibility of permanent extrarenal dialysis, extremely unsafe for his life. We thus considered adapting an already known minimally invasive technique to the individual needs of the patient.


Since 1963, Blum et al. started efforts for ureter replacement with silicone grafts in laboratory animals, but this entailed multiple problems stenosis, leakage and graft displacement¹⁰. The first contralateral placements of silicone prostheses in the position of obstructed ureter were announced in the 1970s^{11,12} while Schulman et al. published the first long-term successful contralateral ureteral replacement with silicone prostheses in a patient with obstructive anuria due to a metastatic prostate adenocarcinoma¹³.

All these efforts for ureter replacement using synthetic materials were limited to a minimum number of patients and were not widely applied in the following years, because the problems of biocompatibility, water-tightness and resistance of the material to developing lithiasis were not actually overcome. The big change occurred in the 1990s, with the refinement of available materials, mainly represented by Desgrandchamps et al., who, in 1995, published the first cases of ureter replacement using a Detour-type pyelo-cystic silicone graft with PTFE coating, percutaneously placed in the kidney and anastomosed in the bladder through a subcutaneous tunnel¹⁴. In the coming years, the same team increased the number of patients, improved the results and expanded the

indications to benign diseases^{15,16}. The method began to be applied successfully in increasingly more centres, dramatically improving the quality of life of hundreds of patients, who were condemned to living with permanent percutaneous nephrostomies^{17,18,3,19}. The variant implementation of the method in the case of our patient provided us, in a not very technically demanding way, with the advantage of solving the oncological and urine diversion problems at the same time. The patient tolerated the surgery well and his immediate postoperative course presented no major complications. Six months later, the patient lives without the need for extrarenal dialysis and without visible signs of disease relapse. It is undoubtedly necessary to apply the technique to a larger number of patients with longer follow-up times in order to answer questions about the graft's behaviour over time and in specific situations, such as chemotherapy, or the possibility of endoscopic examination of the pyelocalyx system through the graft.

Conclusion

The management of extensive invasive drainage system tumours in patients with solitary kidney is a specialised

situation that requires taking into consideration factors such as age, general condition and the patient's consent for radical operations that would lead to permanent extrarenal dialysis in the already known oncological data of the disease. Using an individualised approach to each case, it appears that the modified use of synthetic pyelo-cystic bypass grafts (Detours) for replacing the affected ureter at the same time with its excision is a safe solution for patients with low life expectancy, which prolongs their disease-free survival period, maintaining renal function at least on a par with preoperative levels. This first successful attempt in an oncology case opens up prospects for its more widespread use, as in the management of extensive, iatrogenic or not, drainage system lesions, until now treated with nephrectomy or permanent nephrostomy or complex operations involving the intestinal tract and/or autotransplantation and ambivalent results. The application of the method in a larger number of patients with a longer follow-up time will lead to safer conclusions regarding the method's indications, limits and results. 

Conflicts of interest

The authors declared no conflicts of interest.

Περίληψη

Εισαγωγή: Η χρήση υποδόριου μοσχεύματος πυελοκυστικής παράκαμψης (detour) έχει περιγραφεί, ως ελάχιστη επεμβατική μέθοδος αντιμετώπισης εκτεταμένων ουρητηρικών βλαβών, συνήθως ογκολογικής, μετακινικής ή ιατρογενούς αιτιολογίας. Παρουσιάζεται η πρώτη περίπτωση χρήσης του συγκεκριμένου μοσχεύματος σε ανοικτή επέμβαση, για αντικατάσταση ουρητήρα.

Υλικό & Μέθοδος: Ασθενής 81 ετών, λειτουργικός μονόνεφρος AP, προσήλθε με εικόνα αποφρακτικής ανουρίας. Αντιμετώπιστηκε επείγοντως με τοποθέτηση καθετήρα rig tail και κατά τη διερεύνηση που ακολούθησε, διαπιστώθηκε η παρουσία όγκου του άνω τριτημορίου του AP ουρητήρα, σε έκταση που δεν επέτρεπε συντηρητικού τύπου επέμβαση. Με δεδομένη την αυξημένη νοσηρότητα και την άρνηση του ασθενούς να καταλήξει σε μόνιμη εξωνεφρική κάθαρση, εκτελέστηκαν στον ίδιο χρόνο εκτεταμένη ουρητηρεκτομή από το επίπεδο της πυελοουρητηρικής ως την κυστεουρητηρική συμβολή και αντικατάσταση του πάσχοντος ουρητήρα από συνθετικό μό-

σχευμα detour, που αναστομώθηκε στα δύο άκρα του με την πύελο και την ουροδόχο κύστη. Διεγχειρητικά ελέγχθηκε το πυελοκαλυκτικό σύστημα για αποκλεισμό άλλου όγκου και τοποθετήθηκε προφυλακτική νεφροστομία

Αποτελέσματα: Ο ασθενής εξήλθε την 12η μετεγχειρητική ημέρα σε καλή γενική κατάσταση. Την 30η μετεγχειρητική ημέρα και αφού προηγήθηκε νεφροστομογραφία για αποκλεισμό διαφυγής, αφαιρέθηκαν η νεφροστομία, η παροχέτευση και ο ουροκαθετήρας. Ακολούθησε σχήμα χημειοθεραπείας, που δεν ολοκληρώθηκε. Έξι μήνες μετά την επέμβαση, ο ασθενής είναι απεικονιστικά ελεύθερος νόσου και με οριακά φυσιολογική νεφρική λειτουργία.

Συμπεράσματα: Το σχεδιασμένο για υποδώρα χρήση συνθετικό μόσχευμα πυελοκυστικής παράκαμψης (detour), μπορεί να χρησιμοποιηθεί με ασφάλεια σε ανοικτές ογκολογικές ή άλλες επεμβάσεις για αντικατάσταση ουρητήρα, σε αυστηρά επιλεγμένους ασθενείς.

Λέξεις ευρητηριασμού

όγκος αποχετευτικής μοίρας, μονήρης νεφρός, μόσχευμα πυελοκυστικής παράκαμψης

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CASE REPORT

Selective renal artery embolization for the management of Wunderlich syndrome in a horseshoe kidney

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Abstract

The spontaneous, non-traumatic rupture of the kidney is called Wunderlich's syndrome and represents an emergency, possibly life-threatening condition. Tumors of renal parenchyma, especially benign angiomyolipomas are the most common cause. On the other side, horseshoe kidney is the most frequent congenital abnormality of the kidneys, characterized by the fusion of the two organs by a functioning parenchymal or fibrous band. In this paper, a rare case of spontaneous rupture of an angiomyolipomas in a horseshoe kidney is presented, which threatened the life the patient. The condition was managed successfully via angiography and selective embolization of the bleeding site.

Key words

**Wunderlich's syndrome;
horseshoe kidney;
angiomyolipoma;
angiography; embolization**

Citation

Tsamboukas G, Kallidonis P, Ntasiotis P, Politis P, Almpani K, Anthopoulos C, et al. Selective renal artery embolization for the management of Wunderlich syndrome in a horseshoe kidney. *Hellenic Urology* 2016, 28 (4):63-67

Introduction

The spontaneous, non-traumatic rupture of the kidney, also known as Wunderlich's syndrome, is a infrequent urologic emergency which may become life-threatening¹. Tumors and especially angiomyolipomas (AML) are reported as the major cause of bleeding¹. The latter

may occur incidentally or accompany disorders like tubular sclerosis and lymphangioliomyomatosis². Nevertheless, the syndrome is not associated with horseshoe kidney (HSK) which represents the most common congenital renal abnormality³. We herein present a rare case of Wunderlich's syndrome in a young man with

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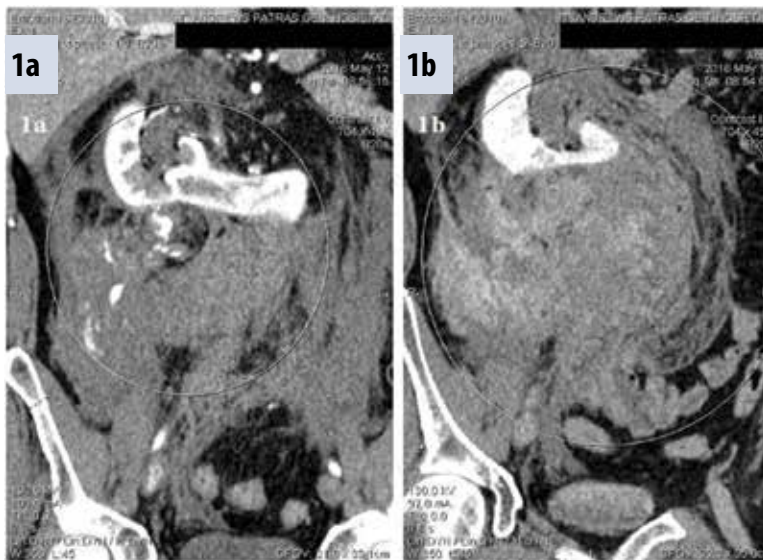


Figure 1: (a) An active bleeding site in the right section of the horseshoe kidney was indentified during the arterial phase of the CT
(b) Delayed images demonstrated a large perinephric hematoma. Without the known history of renal AML, the implicated cause of bleeding would be extremely difficult to be identified

history of horseshoe kidney. The patient was treated with selective renal arterial embolization.

Case presentation

A 39-year old man presented to our department reporting acute onset of diffuse, abdominal pain. The patient denied history of trauma or recent other illnesses. He reported a known history of horseshoe kidney diagnosed 1 year ago due to urinary lithiasis, for which he underwent percutaneous nephrolithotomy. In addition, the patient reported to have a small AML of 2 cm maximal diameter in his kidney. Physical examination demonstrated a painful abdomen and lumbar region, while a mass was palpable abdominally. The vital signs of the patients were normal, reflecting no hemodynamical instability. Hematocrit was 36% and urea and creatinine levels were within normal limits. A contrast enhanced computed tomography was performed which demonstrated a bleeding site in the right section of the horseshoe kidney (**figure 1a**), which resulted in a large retroperitoneal hematoma (**figure 1b**). The patient was hemodynamically stable; thereby, the conservative management was decided, with close monitoring of the vital signs and hematocrit.

During the next hours, the patient gradually demonstrated signs of hypovolemic shock, while hematocrit reached nadir of 22%, despite intravenous infusion of colloid solutions and transfusion with 5 units of concentrated red blood cells. Thus, the performance of re-

nal angiography and if possible, selective embolization of the bleeding vessels was decided. During the angiography session, bleeding vessel on the right median to lower pole of the horseshoe kidney was observed. The vessel was occluded with coils and the bleeding was successfully ceased, while an infarcted area was left behind (**figure 2**). The patient was further transfused with 2 more units of concentrated red blood cells. The hematocrit was stable after the transfusions. Nevertheless, the intraabdominal collection of fluid resulted in bilateral thoracic collections with the right side collection having significantly higher volume. The patient respiratory capacity gradually deteriorated and the drainage of the right thoracic collection was decided on the 5th day after the embolization. The respiratory status was not improved and the drainage of the left collection was also decided (8th day) (**figure 3**). The patient respiratory capacity was improved and he was eventually discharged after removing the thoracic drainages and a total hospitalization of 17 days (**figure 4**). At day of discharge, the hematocrit was 36%. Urea and creatinine levels were 24 mg/dl and 0.8 mg/dl, respectively.

Discussion

Wunderlich's syndrome is defined as a spontaneous renal bleeding, confined in subcapsular, perinephric and retroperitoneal spaces¹. The clinical manifestation of the condition has been described as Lenk's triad consisting of acute lumbar and abdominal pain,

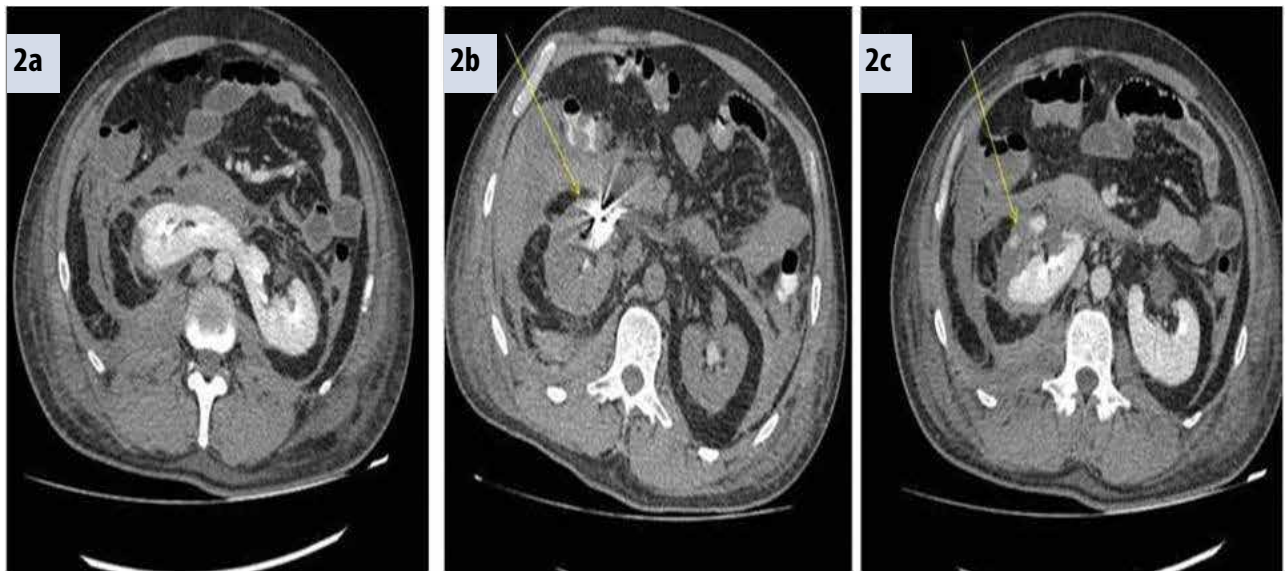


Figure 2: (a) No sign of renal bleeding, (b) The metal coil used for the embolization is clearly displayed, (c) An area of parenchymal infarct, due to embolization



Figure 3: The development of bilateral thoracic fluid collections were managed by contemporary placement of thoracic drainage tubes



Figure 4: The bilateral thoracic fluid collections were successfully resolved

palpable abdominal mass and hemodynamic deterioration which may result in hypovolemic shock¹. Hematuria may also be present but does not necessarily reflect the severity of the condition². Angiomyolipomas, renal cell or urothelial carcinomas are reported as the main origin of bleeding, while uncontrolled anticoagulation therapy, infection or vascular pathologic lesions like panarteritis nodosa or vasculitis have been reported less common causes¹. AMLs are reported as the most common cause of the syndrome¹; these mesenchymal tumors are benign and consist of 3 components; abnormal vessels, special spindle

cells and mature adipocytes². The diagnosis of the condition is established with computerized tomography imaging, which demonstrates perirenal or retroperitoneal hematoma¹. Nonetheless, the CT cannot always determine the causative lesion and only the presence of fat density areas may justify the diagnosis of AML¹. The therapeutic approach is based on the performance of renal angiography with embolization which results in control of the bleeding in the majority of the patients and the excision of the kidney is avoided^{1,4}.


Horseshoe kidney is the most common congenital



renal abnormality and its incidence is estimated at one in 400-800 births⁵. The most common pathologic consequences are emerged from obstruction which may result in calculi formation (up to 60%) and infection^{3,5}. Tumorigenesis is presented with higher incidence than the normal population^{3,6}. Renal cell carcinomas have been observed as the majority of tumors affecting HSK and spontaneous rupture of such tumors has been reported⁷. However, the presence of a AML in HSK has been limited reported in the literature^{8,9}.

Considering the above evidence, the currently presented case is uncommon and has been described very limited in the literature. The management of the current case was based on the support of the vital signs, contrast enhanced tomography and selective angiographic embolization. The latter algorithm would have also followed in the case of a prolonged bleeding of the kidney. Nevertheless, vascular abnormalities of HSKs may be present in up to 80% of the cases and pose a challenge for the diagnosis and subsequent angiographic management⁵. These abnormalities may also include supernumerary main arteries accompanying the fusion and may originate from the aorta, the mesenteric or the iliac arteries⁵. In the current case, the contrast enhanced CT before the definitive treatment did not provide diagnosis

of the bleeding site and the angiographic investigation was decided based on clinical criteria. In fact, the presence of the AML and its possible implication to the bleeding may have been impossible to diagnose if the history of the patient was not available to our department. The combination of the modalities eventually resulted in successful resolution of the bleeding and a surgical exploration was avoided. The thoracic collections were related to the large retroperitoneal bleeding and were successfully managed. Nevertheless, these collections could develop life threatening conditions and the treating physician should always treat them with extra care.

As a conclusion, Wunderlich's syndrome is a life-threatening condition which demands prompt intervention. When renal bleeding is complicated with HSK, the urologist has to take into consideration the vascular variations that accompany the kidney. The combination of contrast enhanced computer tomography and angiography offers beneficial information for a successful embolization. In our case, such an approach led to definitive resolution of bleeding, eliminating the need of surgical intervention. 

Conflicts of interest

The authors declared no conflicts of interest.

Abbreviations

AML= Angiomyolipoma

HSK= Horseshoe kidney

CT= Computer Tomography

Περίληψη

Η αυτόματη, μη τραυματική ρήξη του νεφρού, ή αλλιώς σύνδρομο Wunderlich, αποτελεί μια οξεία, δυνητικά απειλητική για τη ζωή κατάσταση. Οι όγκοι του παρεγχύματος, και ειδικά τα καλοήγη αγγειομυολιπώματα είναι η συνηθέστερη αιτία. Από την άλλη πλευρά, ο πεταλοειδής νεφρός είναι η πιο συχνή συγγενής ανωμαλία των νεφρών, χαρακτηριζόμενος από την ένωση των δύο οργάνων μέσω μιας λειτουργικής παρεγχυματικής ή μιας ινώδους ταινίας. Στην παρούσα εργασία παρουσιάζεται μια σπάνια περίπτωση αυτόματης ρήξης ενός αγγειομυολιπώματος σε πεταλοειδή νεφρό η οποία απειλήσε τη ζωή του ασθενούς. Η κατάσταση αντιμετωπίστηκε επιτυχώς μέσω αγγειογραφίας και εκλεκτικού εμβολισμού της αιμορραγούσας εστίας.



**Λέξεις
ερευνησιασμού**
**σύνδρομο Wunderlich,
 πεταλοειδής νεφρός,
 αγγειομυολίωμα,
 αγγειογραφία, εμβολισμός**

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Βιοψία ή μη βιοψία προστάτη;

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1 Access Hybritech p2PSA and phi (Prostate Health Index)

Με το νέο ειδικό έλεγχο της **BECKMAN COULTER phi** (Prostate Health Index),

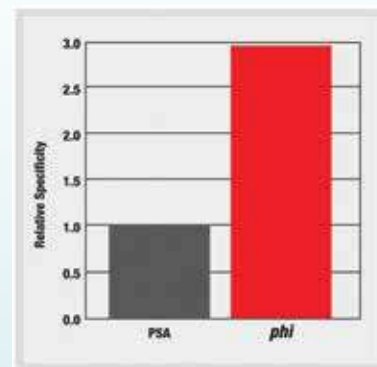
- μετρώνται 3 διαφορετικά κλάσματα του PSA (Ειδικό Προστατικό Αντιγόνο) προσφέροντας μια πιο ακριβή μέτρηση του ρίσκου για ύπαρξη καρκίνου του προστάτη, από τη μέτρηση μόνο των PSA και freePSA.
- οι εξαγόμενες τιμές μέτρησης, συσχετίζονται με την αυξημένη ή μη πιθανότητα εμφάνισης καρκίνου του προστάτη και ιδιαίτερα με τις πιο επιθετικές μορφές του.
- υπάρχει δυνατότητα κατηγοριοποίησης των περιστατικών με καρκίνο του προστάτη από εκείνα των καλοήθων μορφών, μειώνοντας κατά 26% περίπου τη λήψη μη απαραίτητων βιοψιών σε άνδρες με αυξημένα επίπεδα PSA.

Catalona WJ, Partin AW, Sanda MG, et al. A multicenter study of [-2]pro-prostate-specific antigen combined with prostate-specific antigen and free prostate-specific antigen for prostate cancer detection in the 2.0 to 10.0 ng/mL prostate-specific antigen range. J Urology 2011 May;185:1650-55.2.

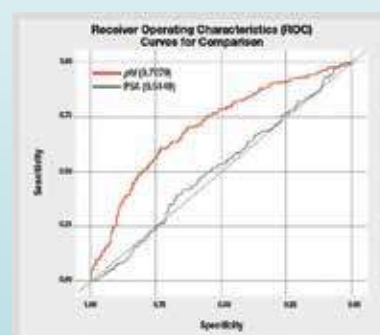
2 Πολυπαραμετρική Μαγνητική Τομογραφία προστάτη

Η χρήση της πολυπαραμετρικής **Μαγνητικής Τομογραφίας** βοηθά:

- Στην ανίχνευση και χαρτογράφηση του καρκίνου του προστάτη (πριν τη βιοψία)
- Στη σταδιοποίηση του καρκίνου (μετά τη βιοψία)
- Στο σχεδιασμό της θεραπείας από τον ιατρό ουρολόγο
- Στην παρακολούθηση της διαφοροποίησης του όγκου (μέγεθος και χαρακτήρας)
- Στην αξιολόγηση της αποτελεσματικότητας μιας χειρουργικής επέμβασης
- Στον έλεγχο της υποτροπής καρκίνου
- Εφαρμόζεται με τη χρήση Μαγνητικού τομογράφου 3 Tesla από εξειδικευμένους Ακτινοδιαγνώστες



Σχήμα 1: phi 3 φορές πιο ειδικό στην ανίχνευση ύπαρξης καρκίνου του προστάτη από το PSA μόνο



Σχήμα 2: Receiver Operating Characteristics (ROC) Curves for Comparison



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Cucurbita Pepo Seed Oil 400mg

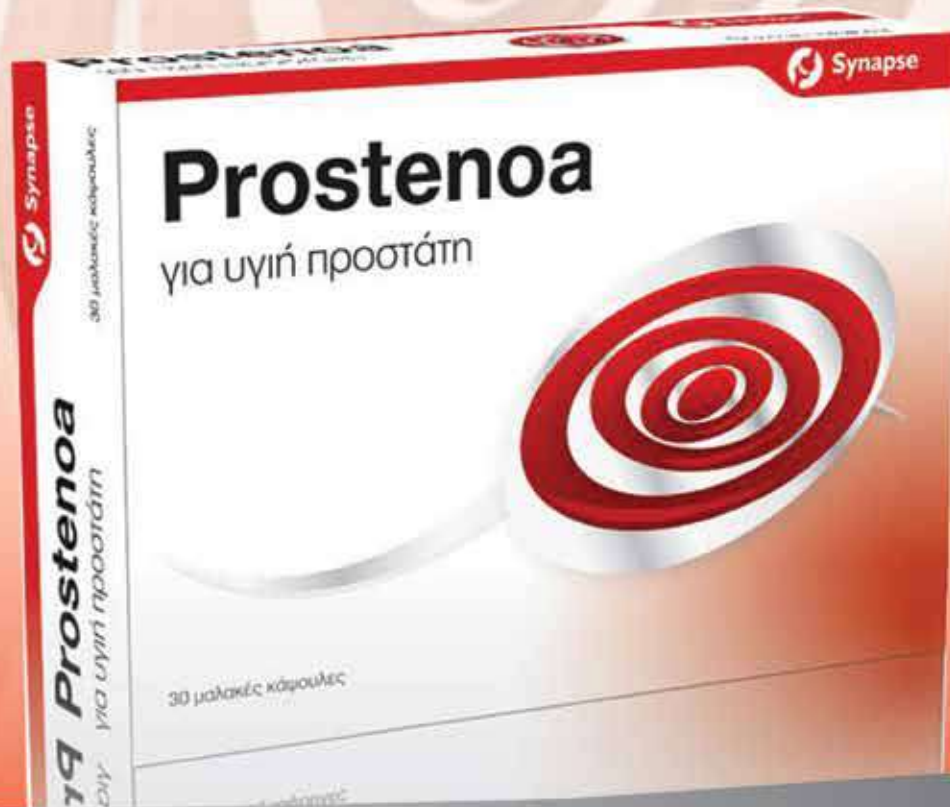
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Lycopene 0.3mg

Selenium 28mcg

Δοσολογία:

1 κάψουλα τη μέρα μετά το φαγητό



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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.

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



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Η σύνδεση της «βιομηχανίας» Τουρισμού με την Υγεία γίνεται πραγματικότητα

Ιδρύθηκε και ξεκίνησε άμεσα την δραστηριότητα του ο Ελληνικός Σύνδεσμος Τουρισμού Υγείας.

Δημιουργήθηκε από επιφανή μέλη της τουριστικής βιομηχανίας και έγκριτους επιστήμονες υγείας, οι οποίοι διέγνωσαν τα σημαντικά πλεονεκτήματα και την προστιθέμενη αξία που μπορεί να έχει ο Τουρισμός Υγείας, στον Ελληνικό Τουρισμό, στον κλάδο της Υγείας και επιπρόσθετα στην Οικονομία και το ΑΕΠ της χώρας.

Σκοπός του Συνδέσμου είναι η σύνδεση, ανάπτυξη και διεύρυνση της «βιομηχανίας» του τουρισμού, με το πολύτιμο αγαθό της υγείας, μέσα από την συνεχή υποστήριξη και προβολή των παρακάτω κατηγοριών:

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- **Τουρισμός Τοπικής Κουζίνας**
- **Αθλητικός Τουρισμός**
- **Προσβάσιμος Τουρισμός**
- **Υποβοηθούμενη Τουριστική Κατοικία**



Ο Ελληνικός Σύνδεσμος Τουρισμού Υγείας συμμετέχει στο ΔΥΟ Forum 2017

Με περίπτερο, στο οποίο θα ενημερώνει για τις πολλαπλές του δραστηριότητες, τους επαγγελματίες τουρισμού και υγείας, αλλά και με την διοργάνωση του τρίτου και μεγαλύτερου διεθνούς συνεδρίου για τον Ιατρικό Τουρισμό, συμμετέχει ο Σύνδεσμος, στο **ΔΥΟ Forum 2017**, που θα πραγματοποιηθεί στις **11 και 12 Φεβρουαρίου 2017**, στο **Ζάππειο Μέγαρο**.

Στο συνέδριο αναμένεται να αναλυθούν όλες οι **τελευταίες εξελίξεις στον κλάδο του ιατρικού τουρισμού**, τόσο σε Ελληνικό όσο και σε διεθνές επίπεδο, από δεκάδες καταξιωμένους ομιλητές που θα καταφθάσουν στην Αθήνα για τον σκοπό αυτό. Ο Ελληνικός Σύνδεσμος Τουρισμού Υγείας θα παρουσιάσει, στο συνέδριο, το πλάνο του για την άμεση και γρήγορη ανάπτυξη των υποδομών, καθώς και το μείγμα μάρκετινγκ που χρειάζεται, ώστε η Ελλάδα, σύντομα, να καταστεί παγκόσμιος πόλος έλξης στον συγκεκριμένο τομέα.

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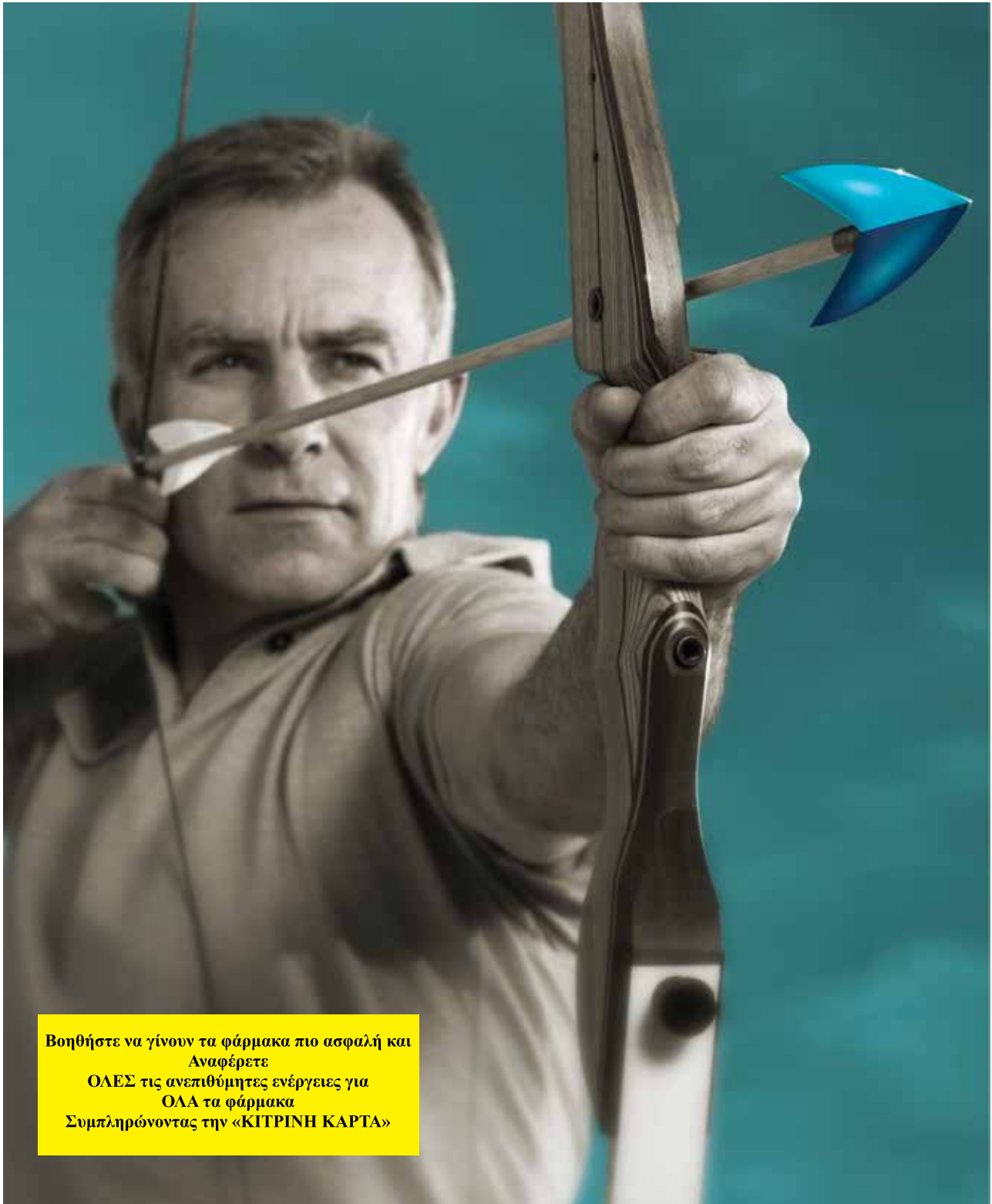
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