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REVIEWS

- Presentation of a new endoscopic procedure for the closure of a postoperative urinary fistula
- From candlelight to digital imaging cystoscopy: A comprehensive review of bladder's endoscopy evolution
- Neurogenic bladder in multiple sclerosis

- Zero ischemia partial nephrectomy: Techniques and outcomes

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

- Surgeons' self-assessed learning curve for Thulium-assisted Laser Prostatectomy: Evaluation of a nationwide Survey

CASE REPORTS

- Intratesticular varicocele: A rare finding of unknown significance. Report of 2 cases
- A hybrid penile carcinoma with presence of anterior urethral dysplasia



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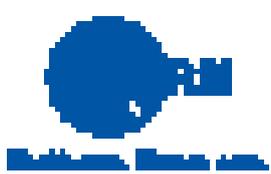
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Address: 23, Ravine St., 115 21 Athens, Greece

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1. Ciprofloxacin: Η αντιβιοτική αγωγή των λοιμωδών ασθενειών του ουροποιητικού συστήματος και των λοιμώξεων του ουροποιητικού.
 2. Acthe Val: Φαρμακευτικό προϊόν που περιέχει αντιβιοτικό και προβιοτικό για την αντιμετώπιση των λοιμώξεων του ουροποιητικού.



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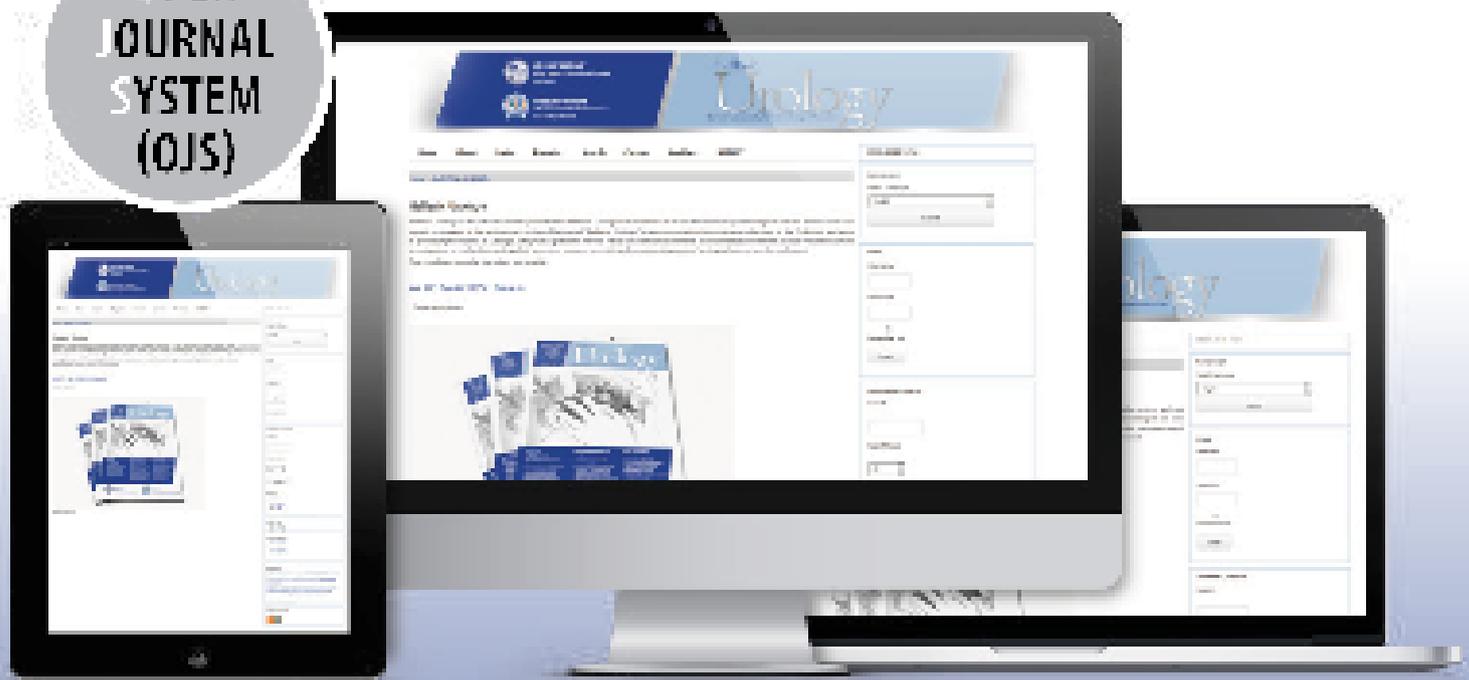


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REVIEW

Presentation of a new endoscopic procedure for the closure of a postoperative urinary fistula

Lampros Mitrakas¹, Markus Schwarzott¹, Paul Pátroi¹, Thomas Bayer², Karl Weingärtner¹

¹ Sozialstiftung Bamberg-Klinikum am Bruderwald, Klinik für Urologie und Kinderurologie, Akademisches Lehrkrankenhaus der Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Chefarzt: PD Dr. med. K. Weingärtner, Buger Straße 80, 96 049 Bamberg, Deutschland

² Sozialstiftung Bamberg-Klinikum Bamberg, Klinik für Diagnostische Radiologie, Interventionelle Radiologie und Neuroradiologie, Chefarzt: Prof. Dr. med. M. Lenhart, Buger Strasse 80, 96 049 Bamberg, Deutschland

Abstract

Persistent urinary fistula after nephron-sparing surgery is a potentially dangerous operation-related complication for human health. The majority of patients are being treated conservatively. Some-

times an intervention for the repair of a urinary fistula is inevitable. We introduce the application of fibrin glue for ureteroscopic closure of a persistent urinary fistula after a nephron-sparing surgery.

Introduction

Nephron-sparing surgery (NSS) is recommended in patients with T1a tumors and should be favoured over radical nephrectomy in patients with T1b tumors, whenever feasible¹. NSS accounts for 90% of operations for cT1a renal tumors in high-volume cancer centers². There is a higher incidence of short-term surgery-related complications though. Among them urinary fistulae (UF) have incidence rates of 3–6%³. The diagnosis of UF is based on the persistent postoperative drainage of urine from a perirenal

drain. Mostly the problem resolves spontaneously with conservative treatment. In cases of prolonged leakage the use of a double-J stent or a retrograde mono-J

catheter or a percutaneous nephrostomy can help⁴. Still there are cases which demand surgical repair of the fistula. We introduce the successful ureteroscopic closure with fibrin glue of a persistent UF after NSS for kidney cancer.

Case report

A 59-year-old Caucasian male presented himself at the outpatient department,

Key words

fistula; nephron-sparing surgery; complication; closure; ureteroscopy; fibrin glue

Citation

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Corresponding author:

Lampros Mitrakas, Sozialstiftung Bamberg-Klinikum am Bruderwald, Klinik für Urologie und Kinderurologie, Buger Straße 80, 96 049 Bamberg, Deutschland
E-mail: lamprosmi@gmail.com



Figure 1: Retrograde pyelography (RP) of the right kidney, 4 weeks after the nephron-sparing surgery, showing extravasation of contrast medium, indicating the presence of urinary fistula in the middle calyx group

Figure 2: Intraoperative fluoroscopic image of side-winder catheter placed outside the calyceal defect, shortly before the fibrin glue (Tissucol, Baxter, The Netherlands) will be injected, in the boundary between the neck of calyx and renal parenchyma, and the catheter will be withdrawn

due to an incidentally found tumor of the right kidney. He only reported a history of hyperlipidemia. Physical examination offered no findings. An Ultrasound (U/S) examination and a computed tomography (CT) revealed a solid exophytic mass in the anterior middle part of the right kidney. The mass had a maximal diameter of 2 cm. An open retroperitoneal NSS, in particular a tumor excision without ischemia, was the chosen treatment. Intraoperatively, there was no indication of opening the pelvicalyceal system. The postoperative period was uneventful. A postoperative retrograde pyelography (RP) on the right side was normal. The histopathological report documented a 1.8 cm clear-cell renal cell carcinoma, fine differentiated (Fuhrman Grade 1) with intact surgical margins (pT1a).

Four weeks after the operation the patient was admitted to hospital due to a polymicrobial urinary tract infection (UTI) and thrombophlebitis of the left leg. An U/S examination of the right kidney brought out a perirenal accumulation of fluid, reasonably representing a urinoma. Furthermore, we carried out a RP of the right kidney under antibiotic prophylaxis. Extravasation of

contrast medium, indicating the presence of UF in the middle calyx group was ascertained (**Fig.1**). Therefore, we placed a double-J stent and a transurethral catheter, which were simultaneously removed after 2 weeks when the patient became asymptomatic and the control with RP showed no extravasation. One week later, he was readmitted to our department suffering again from a febrile UTI. The persistence of UF was confirmed with a RP under antibiotics. We placed a mono-J catheter and a transurethral one and we finally led him (8 weeks after the initial NSS) in the operating room for repairing the fistula under antibiotic treatment according to the current antibiogram.

We visualized the fistula by applying contrast medium via a mono-J stent on a C-arm angiographic table, under fluoroscopy and by using a flexible ureteroscope. We subsequently explored with the aid of an angiographic side-winder catheter and using a guide wire the middle calyx group. The side-winder catheter was placed transparenchymally, through the guide-wire, on the outside of the kidney. We then applied, via the side-winder catheter, 2 ml of fibrin glue (Tissucol,

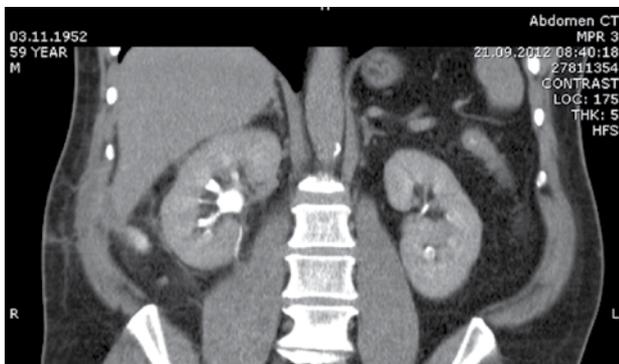


Figure 3: Computed tomography (CT) image (with intravenously administered contrast medium), after the ureteroscopic closure of the fistula, revealing no leakage from the middle calyx group of the right kidney

Baxter, The Netherlands) in the boundary between the neck of calyx and renal parenchyma (**Fig.2**). We therefore wanted to avoid the failure (gluing) of fibrin glue within the catheter. At the end of the procedure, we placed a mono-J stent within the right renal pelvis and we fixed it on a transurethral catheter. The next day, a RP demonstrated no extravasation and we replaced mono-J stent with a double-J one. A postoperative abdomen computed tomography (CT) with intravenously (IV) administered contrast medium showed no leakage (**Fig.3**). The patient came 1 month later for a new imaging control with a RP and removing of the double-J stent. At the last follow up visit, 48 months after the restoration, an IV pyelogram and a magnetic resonance urography confirmed no extravasation as well as no tumor recurrence.

Discussion

Current medical evidence indicates that NSS, irrespectively of the surgical approach, is an excellent method for treating small renal masses¹. Therefore, this technique expands against radical nephrectomy (RN), especially in high-volume cancer centers. The rate of operation-related complications for NSS and RN is 9% and 3% accordingly⁵. Regarding NSS, the surgical intervention on urinary collecting system represents a serious landmark for every urologist. This is mostly due to postoperative UF found in 3-6% of patients treated with NSS. Several factors are reported to correlate with UF formation, such as tumor size, endophytic tumor location, intraoperative repairment of collecting system, estimated blood loss and ischemia time^{3,6}. The

UF usually occur in the first two postoperative weeks⁷. The majority of UF is treated conservatively, meaning waiting for spontaneous interception of leakage via normal tissue-healing process, or minimally invasively. Minimal interventions include either a long-term ureteral catheterization using a double-J stent, with or without a transurethral catheter, or a drainage using a percutaneous nephrostomy catheter. So far, there is no evidence-based established strategy regarding the duration of these minimal interventions. In a recent retrospective multicenter analysis of 1791 patients treated with robot-assisted partial nephrectomy for kidney cancer, the authors reviewed their database for urine leak as a complication of the surgery. They documented that double-J stents and drainages are mainly removed after a median range of 21 (8-83) and 8 (4-13) days respectively⁷. When a UF persists, it is necessary to explore the urinary collecting system and restore it. About 30% of patients with a persistent UF will finally need an interventional treatment³.

Tissucol is a fibrin glue comprising 2 components of human origin (fibrinogen and thrombin). It is used for the adhesion of wounds, the promotion of wound healing and as an auxiliary in the surgical suture of wounds and closing of wounds from which leakage of body fluid exists. To our knowledge this is the first reported case of a successful ureteroscopic closure of a postoperative UF using fibrin glue. Gluing of the catheter tip is rare, but it is a potential complication, when glue-like material is used. For this reason, we applied fibrin glue via an angiographic side-winder catheter. This catheter is double curved with a reverse secondary curve, which allows the catheter tip to be advanced subselectively by a pulling (rather than a pushing) action, resulting in superior ease and speed of catheter placement. We experienced no problem. A surgical repairment of the UF was necessary, because of the complications. Our aim was to solve the problem implementing a minimally invasive method. We additionally needed a clear intraoperative visualization of the urinary collecting system. For these reasons we decided to go for a flexible ureteroscopy under fluoroscopic guidance. Other authors have successfully tried to treat persistent postoperative UF by performing a percutaneous embolization with N-butyl-2-cyanoacrylate⁴, which is a tissue adhesive material. Finally, a percutaneous fibrin glue injection for persistent urinary leakage after an open transperitoneal

partial nephrectomy for clear cell carcinoma of the kidney was recently reported in Japan⁸. We regard that our technique is even less invasive, since we avoid the nephrostomy-related manipulation.

The disadvantages of our method are the potential risk of gluing of the material into the catheter tip or unintended urological structures and the lack of supporting data.

Ureteroscopic closure of a UF with fibrin glue seems as an effective and feasible minimally invasive technique. A parameter that needs to be taken into consideration is that an irreversible result, by using a glue-like material, is achieved. Proper equipment and an experienced

team are of great importance in order to maximize effectiveness and eliminate the risk of material failure. Our technique needs further evaluation, but we feel that the encouraging result holds promise. 

Acknowledgments

None.

Conflicts of interest

None of the contributing authors have any conflict of interest, including specific financial interests or relationships and affiliations relevant to the subject matter or materials discussed in the manuscript.

Περίληψη

Η μερική νεφρεκτομή ή ογκεκτομή για την αντιμετώπιση του νεφροκυτταρικού καρκίνου ενδείκνυται σε ασθενείς με T1a όγκους, καθώς και σε ασθενείς με T1b όγκους, εφόσον είναι εφικτή. Σε μεγάλα ογκολογικά κέντρα αντιστοιχεί στο 90% των επεμβάσεων για όγκους cT1a. Στις επεμβάσεις αυτές παρατηρείται ένα σχετικά υψηλότερο ποσοστό πρώιμων μετεγχειρητικών επιπλοκών, μεταξύ των οποίων και τα μετεγχειρητικά συρίγγια του ουροποιητικού σε ποσοστό 3-6%. Τα συρίγγια αυξάνουν τη μετεγχειρητική νοσηρότητα

Λέξεις ευρητηριασμού

μετεγχειρητικό
συρίγγιο; μερική
νεφρεκτομή;
ογκεκτομή; επιπλοκή;
ουρητηροσκοπική
σύγκλειση; κόλλα ινικής

των ασθενών και τις περισσότερες φορές αντιμετωπίζονται με συντηρητικά μέσα, επιδιώκοντας την επίτευξη αυτόματης σύγκλεισης μέσω των μηχανισμών επούλωσης. Όταν η συντηρητική αντιμετώπιση αποτυγχάνει, τότε απαιτείται επεμβατική αποκατάσταση, κατά κανόνα ελάχιστα επεμβατική-ενδοσκοπική. Παρουσιάζουμε μία νέα ενδοσκοπική τεχνική για την ουρητηροσκοπική σύγκλειση ενός μετεγχειρητικού συρίγγιου, μετά ογκεκτομή για νεφροκυτταρικό καρκίνο, με τη χρήση κόλλας ινικής.

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REVIEW

From candlelight to digital imaging cystoscopy: A comprehensive review of bladder's endoscopy evolution

Kostas Chondros, Nicolas Hoarau, Johann Menard, Pierre-Emmanuel Bryckaert, Eric Mandron
Department of Urology, Surgical Clinique du Pré, Le Mans, France

Abstract

The birth of modern cystoscopy began two centuries ago after the initial invention of Bozzini's prototype urethroscope that used candlelight. Since then cystoscopy has been submitted to several improvements ranging from practical instrumentation modifications to advanced light source systems and enhanced image quality. Visualization melioration of the bladder used technological innovations, such as fiber-optics, and

led to flexible endoscopes with digital imaging. The last two decades, systems with image enhancement capabilities have emerged in an effort to improve endoscopic vision and detection of bladder pathological lesions. The present review includes the main hallmarks of the historic evolution of today's cystoscopes, the current endoscopic systems and the future trends in bladder's visualization.

Introduction

Cystoscopy is a compound word that originates from the Ancient Greek language. Etymologically, is formed by the noun cyst- 'κύστις', the Greek word for the bladder and scopy- 'σκόπησις', a suffix of the verb 'σκοπέω' which means to observe, to examine, to investigate. Similarly, the term endoscopy originates from the suffix endo- 'ενδο', which means internal/inside. Practitioners had realized the benefit of minimally invasive surgery and the necessity to explore into natural orifices since the Hippocrates ages (circa

400 BC) who was one of the first to describe an endoscopic approach of rectum diagnosis of hemorrhoids with a "speculum". 1500 years later, Abu-al-Qasim, a Spanish Surgeon described several instruments that referred to endoscopic illumination¹. Nevertheless, the true story of cystoscopy begins in the early 19th century after the development of the first lightreflecting urethrocystoscope and continues up to nowadays with flexible digital scopes and numerous image enhancement systems that use fancy technological advancements.

Citation

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Corresponding author:

Kostas Chondros MD, MSc, FEBU,
Fellow of Surgical Clinique du Pré, Technopôle Université, 13 Avenue René Leannec - 7200 Le Mans, France
E-mail: k.chondros@med.uoc.gr

The beginning of cystoscopy

The beginning of modern cystoscopy rightfully belongs to Phillip Bozzini, a young physician from Frankfurt who developed an instrument that could reflect the light from a candle through a metallic lumen in order to inspect natural cavities under direct vision. His invention called "Lichtleiter" or "Light Conductor" was presented in 1805 (**Figure 1**) and was demonstrated in nasal cavity and pharynx². There is some evidence that the Lichtleiter was tested in cadaveric urethral samples but is rather unlikely that ever applied on real patients for urological reasons. The first real uretroscopie was developed by a French famous Urologist, Pierre Salomon Segalas, who improved Bozzini's invention in 1826 using a double candle-light source instrument with improved lens viewing named "spéculum uréthro-cystique". Later, in 1853, Antoine Jean Desormeaux³ from Paris further improved endoscopic vision using a cystoscope that reflected convergent light of a gasogene mix lamp and succeeded the first endoscopic procedure, utilizing the era of operative endoscopy. The light source was submitted to further changes using a Petroleum-camphor mix (Cruise, 1965) and magnesium light (Stein, 1967). Stein, in addition, established for the first time the beginning of scientific endo-photography in 1874. The idea of direct illumination cavities belongs to a Polish dentist named Julius Bruck, who developed an instrument in 1867 with an incandescent platinum wire, as a light source, introduced into his "stomatoscope". A water bath was necessary to cool down the filament. Due to the size of his instrument, he proposed the illumination of the bladder in a diaphanoscopic way using the rectum or the vagina⁴. Gustave Trouvé, a French inventor, designed a miniaturized instrument called "polyscope" following Bruck's philosophy in 1973, yet, the first working platinum wire cystoscope was finally developed by Maximilian Nitze from Berlin and Joseph Leiter, using a complex cooling system in 1879. In the meantime, Dierdich Rutenbrg from Vienna introduces the basic principles of air cystoscopy in 1876, a technique that was abandoned by the mid 20th century⁵. After the hallmark invention of the electric bulb by Thomas Edison in 1879⁶ that changed the world, David Newman first adapted a

miniature bulb at the distal tip of a cystoscope in 1883, but it was again Nitze who presented his second-generation operating cystoscope with an Edison lamp attached, in 1886.

In the early 20th century, Reinhold Wappler, an American Engineer and founder of the American Cystoscope Makers Inc. (ACMI), worked with William K. Otis on Nitze's cystoscope and improved its vision using a wide-angle lens system⁷. Three years later, in 1908, Ringleb managed to solve the so-called "Nitze's error", the inverted image, with an upgraded stereoscopic cystoscope. At the same period, Hans Goldschmidt introduced irrigation urethroscopy using both air and water in the urethra. Later, in 1918, Georges Luys from Paris, published his work presenting a new type

of operating cystoscope with electrocoagulation and aspirating tube⁸. During the following decades, significant advancement was made in the field of Laparoscopy (Kelling, Jacobeus) and the resectoscope development (Stern, McCathy)⁹.

Key words

Cystoscopy; bladder endoscopy; fiberscopes; digital imaging; image enhancement systems; photodynamic diagnosis; narrow-band imaging

The flexible story

Several scientists were experimenting since the late 19th century on light transmission systems. In 1930, Heinrich Lamm showed that a bundle of glass fibers could be bent without distorting the transmitted image, but it was not until 1954 that Harold Hopkins, an English physics professor, and Narinder Kapany initiated in London the fiberscope and introduced the term "fiber-optics". Simultaneously, Van Heel published his innovation of cladding fiber-optic system. A few years later, in 1959, Hopkins patented the glass rod-lens system which had better light transmission than the traditional lenses. The basic principle of the Hopkins rod-lens system is that the scope tube consists of glass within thin lenses of air (in contrast to the traditional system), resulting in an increase of total light transmission up to 80 times, and better brightness and contrast images. Due to Hopkins' lack of financial support, a South African gastroenterologist named Basil Hirschowitz, further developed Hopkins fiberscope and introduced the first flexible gastroscope in 1957. In 1960, Karl Storz came up with the idea of using an external light source to transmit light through the same

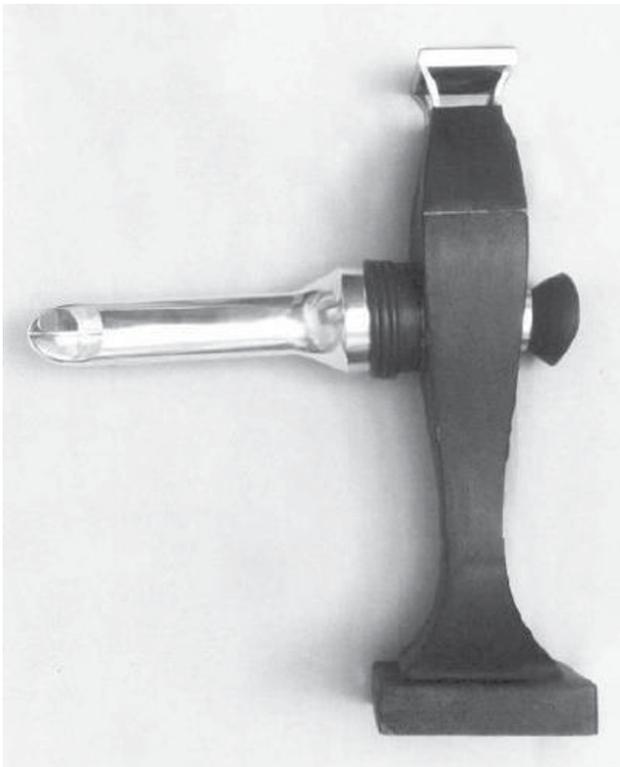


Figure 1. The 'Leichtleiter' Bozzini's first cystoscope created in 1805 (from: Engel RME. *Philipp Bozzini-The Father of Endoscopy*, 2003)

flexible glassfibres of the fiberscope resulting in the development of extracorporeal cold light. Five years later, Hopkins and Storz combined their innovations creating the modern flexible cystoscope¹⁰. The main hallmarks of bladder endoscopy history are summarized in **Table 1**.

Image enhancement Systems

Photodynamic diagnosis (PDD)

The first significant attempt to enhance the standard white light (WL) vision for better bladder visualization was fluorescence cystoscopy. According to its principal, PDD is based on the phenomenon of different emission of fluorescence molecules between normal and abnormal tissue when they are examined under a specific wavelength light (blue light). Thus, PDD requires the instillation of a fluorescence substance that is absorbed into the urothelial cells by hemoglobin and accumulates in abnormal-cancer cells. As a result, abnormal lesions re-emit red fluorescence but normal tissues don't, when the bladder wall is illuminated by blue light (380-450nm)¹¹. The first clinical study using

haematoporphyrin derivative (HpD) was conducted by Kelly in 1975¹², for patients with bladder cancer. Nowadays, the two main photosensitizing agents are 5-aminolevulinic acid (5-ALA) and hexylester hexaminolevulinatate (Hexvix®). Even though papillary lesions can be effectively identified using standard cystoscopy, flat lesions, such as carcinoma in situ (CIS), may be missed. A recent large systematic review on CIS¹³ resulted in 91–97% detection rate for PDD compared to 23-68% for WL. Accordingly, overall recurrence rates are significantly lower when the resection is performed with PDD assistance than WL alone (34.5% vs. 45.4% ($p=0.006$)), as well as in all subgroups¹⁴. Initial high costs can be counterbalanced with the long-term benefit from reduced recurrence rate¹⁵. A relative drawback is that PDD cystoscopy has lower specificity compared to WL (63% vs. 81%, respectively) and when considering patients under BCG therapy for nonmuscle-invasive bladder cancer (NMIBC) can render false positive results (OR: 1.49, $p=0.001$) up to 3mo after the instillation¹⁶. Finally, PDD is recommended in patients with negative WL cystoscopy and positive urinary cytology or history of high-grade tumor¹⁷.

Virtual cystoscopy

In 1996 two investigators independently published the first reports on virtual cystoscopy using high-resolution Computed Tomography. The first¹⁸ used the early contrast medium enhanced phase, and the second¹⁹ helical CT in a CO₂ distended bladder achieving 3D rendering of bladder cavity and identifying all tumors. Virtual cystoscopy has demonstrated excellent results in small non-randomized studies equal to cystoscopy, but these data have low evidence^{20,21}. Magnetic Resonance Imaging is an alternative option for virtual cystoscopy²². Virtual cystoscopy has the advantage of a non-invasive technique. Still, the major demerit is the inability to detect flat lesions or CIS.

Digital cystoscopes

45 years after the first flexible fiber-optic cystoscope, ACMI (ACMI, Southborough, MA, USA) sponsored the first digital cystoscope in 2005. This cystoscope had a distal digital sensor at its tip which derived from the digital camera chips of the late 1960's, charge-coupled device (CCD) and complementary metal oxide semiconductor (CMOS), that were used to store and

TABLE 1		Summarized historical hallmarks of cystoscopic evolution.
Year	Name	Details
1805	Phillip Bozzini	The Lichtleiter - first potential urethroscope
1826	Pierre Segalas	Improved candle-light urothrocystoscope
1853	Antoine Desormeux	First gasogene lamp cystoscope
1867	Stein	Magnesium light
1967	Julius Bruck	Stomatoscope - First endoscope with incandescent platinum wire
1876	Dierdich Rutenbrg	Air cytoscopy
1879	Maximilian Nitze	First working cytoscope with internal illumination
1883	David Newman	First use of Edison bulb
1886	Maximilian Nitze	Second generation cystoscope with Edison Bulb
1905	William K. Otis	Wide-angle lens
1907	Hans Goldschmidt	Irrigation Cystoscopy
1908	Ringleb	Stereoscopic cystoscope
1918	Georges Luys	Operating cystoscope
1930	Heinrich Lamm	Glass -fibres
1954	Harold Hopkins	First fiberscope
1959	Harold Hopkins	The glass rod-lens system
1960	Hopkins - Storz	The modern flexible cystoscope
1960	Karlz Storz	Extracorporeal cold light source
1975	Kelly	First clinical study with PDD
2005	Storz Co	PDD system
1996	Merkle	First virtual cystoscopy
2005	ACMI	First digital cystoscopy
2005	Olympus Co	NBI system
2007	Storz Co	First Full HD camera
2009	Gettman MT	Experimental capsule cystoscope
2013	Storz Co	SPIES
2014	Storz Co	3D endovision

PDD=Photodynamic diagnosis, NBI=Narrow-band imaging, SPIES=Storz professional image enhancement system, HD= High definition, ACMI=American cystoscopemakers Inc.

transfer pictures by electrical signals recorded as pixels²³. These photosensitive chips are able to produce better enhanced images, with high spatial resolution and eliminate the pixelated vision of formed conventional scopes. Digital cystoscopes have less weight than fiber-optic scopes and are thinner. CMOS sensors are still expensive and very sensitive. To compare optic, performance and durability of digital and fiber-optic cystoscopies Okhunov et al.²⁴ conducted a

prospective trial of subjective scoring favoring digital cystoscopies (8.6 vs. 7.9, respectively ($p=0.0001$)). An objective trial demonstrated *in vitro* superiority of digital scopes by the means of resolution, contrast, and color discrimination²⁵.

Narrow-banding Imaging (NBI)

NBI was initially launched by Olympus in 2005²⁶. NBI technology is based on the fact that when the broad-

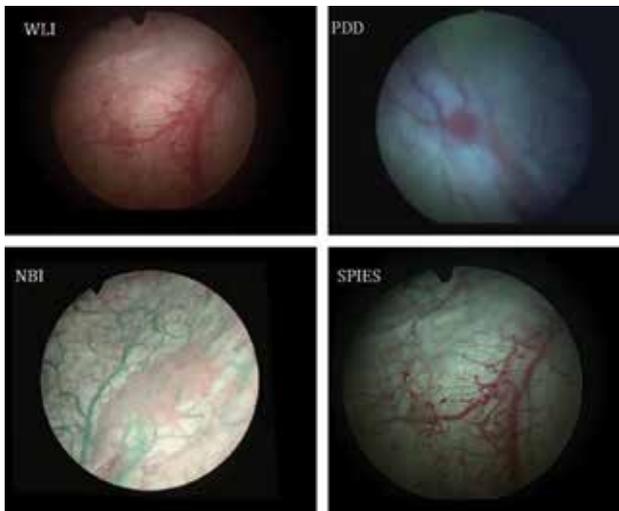


Figure 2. The four image enhancement modalities in bladder cancer. WLI=Whit light imaging, PDD=Photodynamic diagnosis, NBI=Narrow-band imaging, SPIES=Storz professional image enhancement system

band visible light (400-700 nm) is narrowed to 415 and 540 nm, which are the two peak absorption points for hemoglobin, using optical filters, the image of vascularized lesions is enhanced. With this technique, the mucosal microvessels appear darker than the rest of bladder surface that scatters the light. The first NBI cystoscope used a CCD sensor which was able to interchange the light spectrum with no need of a fluorescence medium. NBI superiority of detecting bladder cancer over conventional WL cystoscopy has recently demonstrated by a meta-analysis that showed an additional 25% of tumors detected in an additional 17% of patients. Regarding bladder CIS, NBI was by 28% more accurate than WL²⁷.

Storz Image Enhancement System (SPIES)

Storz Co launched in 2013 a novel system for endoscopy, the SPIES. SPIES uses a digital enhancement image platform with four different modalities (CLARA, CHROMA, SPECTRA A and SPECTRA B) to shift the spectrum of colors in the standard WL image, in order to create high-contrast images and increased sharpness. SPIES is also provided with a Full High Definition monitor (1920x1080 pixels) with LED light source that had originally initiated by the same company in 2007. The system is currently under evaluation. Only preliminary results of a small randomized trial are published showing a superiority of SPIES cystoscopy vs. WL cystoscopy

during follow-up of patients with NMIBC (61,5% vs. 47%, respectively) and a positive correlation with positive urinary cytology²⁸. The latest innovation of SPIES system launched in 2014 combining this technology with 3D-FHD visualization that is currently being used for Laparoscopic Surgery. **Figure 2** illustrates the current main 3 image enhancement systems.

The future directions

Capsule cystoscopy

The idea of capsule cystoscopy derives from wireless capsule endoscopy (WCE) of the gastrointestinal tract. In the field of Urology, it has only been tested experimentally in a pig model with promising results²⁹. More recently, an anti-biofilm capsule was tested for its long-term efficacy in a lab animal model, successfully³⁰.

Raman Spectroscopy (RS)

RS is based on the Raman's effect, initially discovered in 1928, which implies to the phenomenon of light scattering of different molecule bonds after their exposure in monochromatic (785–845 nm) laser light. The result is a "molecular fingerprint" of the examined area. RS has been tested in an *in vivo* study using a specialized probe into the cystoscope resulting in 85% sensitivity and 79% specificity for bladder cancer detection³¹.

Microscopic imaging

Confocal Laser Endomicroscopy (CLE) is a microscopic technique that is applicable in the field of gastroenterology and respiratory system for 15 years. CLE uses laser fibers with high resolution (1- 5 μ m) that can visualize in real-time the microarchitecture of urinary mucosa by magnifying the image. The system (Mauna Kea Technologies, Paris, France) provides this technology with a small probe through the standard cystoscope that emits light from a 488-nm laser fiber and processes the image from scattered light from the tissues. To achieve this image, a previous installation of fluoresceine, a contrast medium, must be applied. CLE can give information about tumor grade which is particularly useful in the upper urinary tract³². Recently, diagnostic criteria for urinary tumors were standardized³³.

Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) is an alternative system for real-time *in vivo* microscopic evaluation of bladder's epithelium. OCT uses a technology, like ultrasound, that can render highresolution imag-

es (10-20nm) from back-scattered waves from tissues, up to 2 mm in depth. OCT has 90-100% sensitivity 65-89% specificity in detecting bladder lesion as has been demonstrated by small pilot studies³⁴ as well as the upper tract³⁵.

Multiphoton Microscopy (MPM) is a laser technology first introduced in 1996 for 3D microscopic imaging of tissues using two-photons or three-photons excitation spectra, exploiting the autofluorescence signals of several cell molecules³⁶. This technology has only been tested in *in vitro* studies, and has shown high sensitivity and specificity even for CIS detection (97% and 100%, respectively)³⁷. MPM endoscopes are not available yet.

Ultraviolet (UV) cystoscopy

The idea of using UV light inside the bladder started in 1965 but was abandoned due to disappointing results³⁸. UV cystoscopy is based on the principle that endogenous molecules, such as NAD, emit autofluorescence after exposure to UV laser light (360 and 450 nm

excitation wavelengths). The concept is that using UV light, normal mucosa and abnormal tissue discrimination is feasible. Recently, in a pilot *in vitro* study the correlation between UV finding and the actual histological tumor was 100%, promising effectiveness of this technique in a real-time endoscopic setting³⁹.

Conclusion

Approximately 200 years of endoscopic evolution have led to significant technological advancements on bladder's illumination. The initial curiosity of former practitioners to inspect the bladder through a lumen under the light of the candles has now been replaced by various modern and complicated instruments that facilitate our endoscopic view for the benefit of the patients. Future directions aim to combine endoscopic high-quality vision with several scientific innovations to that perspective. 

Conflicts of interest

The author declared no conflict of interest.

Περίληψη

Η γέννηση της σύγχρονης κυστεοσκόπησης άρχισε πριν από δύο αιώνες μετά την αρχική εφεύρεση του πρωτοτύπου ουρηθροσκόπιου από τον Bozzini που χρησιμοποίησε το φως των κεριών. Από τότε η κυστεοσκόπηση έχει υποβληθεί σε αρκετές βελτιώσεις που κυμαίνονται από πρακτικές τροποποιήσεις των οργάνων μέχρι σε εξέλιξη συστημάτων φωτισμού και βελτίωση της ποιότητας της εικόνας. Η βελτίωση της ενδοσκόπησης της ουροδόχου κύστης ακολούθησε τεχνολογικές καινοτομίες, όπως τις οπτικές ίνες, και οδήγησε σε δημιουργία εύκαμπτων ενδοσκοπίων με ψηφιακή απεικόνιση. Στις τελευταίες δύο δεκαετίες, τα συστήματα με δυνατότητες βελτίωσης της εικόνας έχουν εμφανιστεί σε μια προσπάθεια να βελτιωθεί η ενδοσκοπική όραση και η ανίχνευση παθολογικών αλλοιώσεων της ουροδόχου κύστης. Η παρούσα ανασκόπηση περιλαμβάνει τους βασικούς ιστορικούς σταθμούς στην ιστορική εξέλιξη της σημερινών κυστεοσκοπίων, τα σημερινά ενδοσκοπικά συστήματα και τις μελλοντικές τάσεις στην απεικόνιση της ουροδόχου κύστης.

Λέξεις ευρητηριασμού

Κυστεοσκόπηση,
ενδοσκόπηση της
ουροδόχου κύστης, ινοπτικά
κυστεοσκόπια, ψηφιακή
απεικόνιση, συστήματα
βελτίωσης εικόνας,
φωτοδυναμική διάγνωση,
απεικόνιση στενής ζώνης

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REVIEW

Neurogenic bladder in multiple sclerosis

Athanasios Dellis¹, Iraklis Mitsogiannis², Dimos D. Mitsikostas³

¹2nd Department of Surgery, Aretaieion Academic Hospital, School of Medicine, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece

²2nd Department of Urology, Sismanoglion General Hospital, School of Medicine, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece

³A Department of Neurology, Aeginition Academic Hospital, School of Medicine, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece

Abstract

Multiple sclerosis is the commonest progressive neurological disorder in young people, with lower urinary tract dysfunction suggesting a common and morbid component, affecting the vast majority of patients. Although urinary symptoms are very common, there are no prospective trials to date regarding management options for bladder dysfunction in multiple sclerosis patients. Additionally, it was only recently when well

designed attempts regarding detailed evaluation and management came up, with validated questionnaires and new kinds of medication. In the present study we try to show up the urologic aspects of this progressive debilitating neurological disorder as well as we review current treatment strategies of neurogenic lower urinary tract dysfunction in multiple sclerosis patients.

Introduction

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is the commonest progressive neurological disorder in young people, whose pathological hallmark is the disruption of myelin sheaths. A relapse–remitting course is most commonly reported, in 85% of patients with MS. Chronic autoimmune T cell-mediated inflammation of the central nervous system (CNS), results in the appearance of new and active focal inflammatory demyelinating lesions in the white matter or

diffuse injury of normal-appearing white matter, cortical demyelination and axonal loss¹.

Lower urinary tract dysfunction (LUTD) is a common and morbid component of MS. The prevalence and severity of urinary system involvement closely correlates with the severity of the underlying disease², duration of disease and extent of spinal cord involvement³. Between 32% and 97% of patients with MS report urinary tract symptoms, with the wide fluctuation in prevalence reflect-

Key words

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Corresponding author:

Dr Athanasios E. Dellis MD, PhD, FEBU, 2nd Department of Surgery, Aretaieion Academic Hospital, School of Medicine, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, 76, Vas. Sofias Ave, 11528, Athens
E-mail: aedellis@gmail.com



ing differences in MS severity³. As many as 70% of patients with MS report that their voiding dysfunction results in a moderate or severe impact on their quality of life⁴. Symptoms occur around 6 years into the illness and almost all patients report LUT symptoms (LUTS) 10 years or more after symptom onset. Most commonly, both storage and voiding dysfunction occur⁵. LUTD is common in acute disseminated encephalomyelitis and can persist after other neurological deficits have resolved⁶.

In the present study we review current treatment strategies of neurogenic LUTD (NLUTD) in MS patients.

Pathophysiology

The NLUTD observed in patients with MS is a direct result of lesions in the spinal cord or brain. Practically, lesions above the S2-S4 cord level, or upper motor neuron lesions, manifest as an overactive bladder, while lesions of the peripheral nerves to the bladder (such as sacral cord demyelination among others), or lower motor neuron lesions, manifest as an acontractile or hypotonic bladder⁷. In urodynamic studies (UDS) of MS patients, cord lesions above the S2-S4 level are more common and present as neurogenic detrusor overactivity (NDO)⁷. NDO is irrespective of bladder urine volume leading to increased bladder pressure, urgency, frequency, and urgency urinary incontinence (UI). In cases of suprapontine lesions, urgency UI is the result of the micturition reflex disinhibition^{8,9}, whereas in combined both upper motor neuron and peripheral lesions, detrusor-sphincter dyssynergia (DSD) is present¹⁰. The latter disco-ordination between detrusor and sphincter can lead to urinary retention, elevated post-void residual (PVR) volumes, and vesicoureteral reflux (VUR) which is the substantial cause of renal failure in MS patients. Storage symptoms and voiding dysfunction can be present simultaneously or independently changing NLUTD clinical manifestations¹¹.

Therapeutic goals

There are several principles in bladder management that guide our decision making: Renal preservation, minimization of urinary tract infections (UTIs), preventing of urolithiasis, achievement of social continence and minimization of urinary tract complications in general¹². The primary principle in order to achieve the aforementioned, is the regular and efficient bladder emptying. The healthy adult bladder in an asymptomatic person

empties completely approximately 4 to 8 times every 24 hours (h), depending on fluid intake¹³. Ineffective bladder emptying results in LUTS, UTIs and UI, while it further negatively affects renal function. In such patients, the use of catheters can overcome bladder emptying failure. However, bladder management should proceed from the least invasive to most invasive techniques, and from the least complicated to most complicated. Methodology to manage the neurogenic bladder ranges from simple behavioral modifications to extensive surgical reconstruction of the urinary tract. Apart from urinary tract *per se*, effective bowel management is crucial to effective bladder management. Regular, efficient emptying of the rectum minimizes the risk of UTIs, facilitates bladder emptying, and improves quality of life (QoL)¹³. Finally, there are sex differences in neurogenic bladder management. Although the urinary tract physiology is the same in both sexes, there are considerable anatomic differences that cause severe practical considerations when determining an optimal bladder management plan: Women who perform clean intermittent self-catheterizations (CISC) must be able to catheterize themselves without being able to visualize their urethras, whereas men, especially older ones, may have an enlarged prostate incommensurate with CISC¹³.

Evaluation of Symptoms

There are several screening tools and instruments used to evaluate patients with bladder symptoms, however most of them are not MS specific. Recently, two new questionnaires have been developed and validated in order to efficiently and appropriately screen this population. The Actionable Bladder Symptom and Screening Tool (ABSST) is a 17-item tool consisted of three domains-Bladder Symptoms, Coping Strategies, and Impact of Bladder Symptoms, which is a validated screening tool in order to identify MS patients with symptomatic NDO¹⁴. There is an 8-item short form of ABSST, which maintained the integrity of the long version and has an additional direct question asking if the patient would like help for their bladder problems¹⁵. In this short version, a score of 3 or greater (from 0-8) indicates the need for further evaluation. Along with its ease of use in the clinical setting, the ABSST leads to a referral when appropriate^{14,15}. The Neurogenic Bladder Symptom Score (NBSS), is a 22-item tool consisted of three major domains-Incontinence, Storage and Voiding Symptoms,



and Urinary Complications along with two additional questions regarding bladder management and QoL, which is the first patient reported outcome measure designed to objectively assess signs and symptoms related to neurogenic bladder dysfunction of several neurologic disorders, such as spinal cord injury, spina bifida, and MS¹⁶. Over time, this can be used as a tool to objectively measure changes in bladder symptoms.

In patients with NLUTD, apart from history, physical and neurological exam, voiding diaries can be helpful as well as history of bowel or sexual dysfunction. For patients with new bladder symptoms, urine testing to exclude hematuria or UTI and measurement of a PVR volume and renal ultrasound are both advisable, while cystoscopy is reserved for selected patients.

Treatment

There are several treatment options for the MS patient with NLUTD, ranging from simple behavioral modifications to the complex urinary tract reconstruction¹⁷.

Behavioral modifications

Behavioral modifications suggest the first-line options in managing NLUTD. Patients are encouraged to carry out a diary of their fluid intake and voiding output. Using an hourly chart, patients document volume of fluid consumed and volume voided, evacuated in cases of CISC, or their combination. Preferably three consecutive or nonconsecutive days of a diary is generally representative of the patient's schedule.

Fluid restriction

It is suggested in order to minimize urine production. Furthermore, it includes the restriction of certain types of beverages (eg, caffeinated or carbohydrate beverages, alcohol) to limit irritative voiding symptoms.

Biofeedback and physical therapy

They should be used as an attempt to strengthen pelvic floor muscles that have been weakened from previous surgery or traumatic delivery. Kegel exercises are the most recognized of the physical therapy maneuvers. The efficacy of biofeedback in treating bladder symptoms due to MS is mixed¹⁸, while yoga has been anecdotally reported as well¹⁹. Aforementioned therapeutic options seem to be efficacious in persons with only mild NLUTD.

Valsalva and Crede maneuver

Although with these maneuvers urinary bladder is forcefully evacuated by the concomitant intra-abdominal pressure increase, they should be both avoided since they may cause pelvic organ prolapse or inguinal hernias.

External urine collection devices

They include condom-like devices, diapers or pads. External urine collection devices allow patients to void spontaneously, even if they are unable to toilet themselves. However, since skin irritation is usual especially in patients using diapers or pads, meticulous care is of high importance.

Management of storage symptoms

Antimuscarinic drugs

Antimuscarinic or anticholinergic drugs suggested the cornerstone of NDO treatment for several years. Antimuscarinic drugs competitively antagonize muscarinic acetylcholine receptors, resulting in detrusor relaxation, lower intravesical pressures, and reduced storage symptoms⁵. Although some of the drugs have a higher selectivity for the muscarinic receptor subgroups that are more prevalently expressed in the urinary bladder (M2: Functionally the most relevant subtype in the bladder and M3: Widely distributed throughout the detrusor, urothelium, and suburothelium), none of the available drugs is devoid of adverse events, which include dry mouth, constipation, cognitive impairment, dry eyes, nausea, and fatigue. There are several non-selective antimuscarinic agents such as oxybutinin, fesoterodine and tolterodine, as well as selective ones such as darifenacin and solifenacin^{5,20-22}.

Systematic reviews have not concluded superiority of one agent over others and suggest that the only difference between drugs is their side-effect profiles^{23,24}. Measurement of the PVR volume should be done preferably before antimuscarinic treatment is started.

Desmopressin

Desmopressin is a synthetic vasopressin analogue, first introduced for the treatment of polyuria in patients with diabetes insipidus, and it was also shown to be effective in the management of primary nocturnal enuresis and of nocturia in MS patients²⁵. Desmopressin has showed its efficacy in managing daytime frequency and urine



volume in MS patients, providing symptom relief for up to 6 h²⁶. However, desmopressin should be prescribed with caution in patients older than 65 years or with dependent leg oedema, and should not be used more than once in 24 h because of the risk of hyponatraemia or congestive heart failure²⁷.

β3-Adrenoceptor agonists

Mirabegron is the first available drug in this class. It is a potent agonist that targets the β3 adrenergic receptor found within urothelium and detrusor smooth muscle. Agonists of the receptor cause relaxation of the detrusor muscle during storage¹¹. It has been shown to inhibit detrusor overactivity and increase bladder capacity without any increase in residual volume or decrease in micturition pressure²⁸. There are currently no published randomized controlled trials assessing the efficacy of mirabegron in MS patients, however it may prove to be an advantageous alternative to anticholinergics/antimuscarinics in this population because of a more favorable side effect profile including less cognitive effects, impairment of bladder emptying, and gastrointestinal motility¹¹.

Botulinum toxin

Antimuscarinics and β3-adrenoceptor agonists are the pharmacological treatment of choice and suggest the first line treatment option for NDO. However, there are cases with limited treatment effectiveness and there are patients who have to discontinue their treatment because of side-effects. Onabotulinum toxin A (BoNT-A), which is commercially available as BOTOX® (Allergan, Irvine, California, USA) has been licensed since 2012 in several countries for use in patients with treatment-refractory NDO owing to MS or spinal cord injury. BoNT-A is the only type of botulinum toxin to be evaluated for the management of any LUTD in large, multicentre, randomized controlled trials²⁹⁻³², that have since revolutionised the management of neurogenic overactive bladder. There are seven serotypes of botulinum toxin, but it is type A that is generally used for urological indications. Intradetrusor injections of BoNT-A are highly effective in reducing the incidence of UI, in improving patients' urodynamic parameters and, therefore, their QoL^{29,33}. Twenty to thirty injections are made into the bladder wall, requiring a cystoscopy (rigid or flexible), an intervention that can be done under local anaesthesia in most neuro-

logical patients. The effects of BoNT-A injections usually last for 6-9 months, therefore, repeated injections are often necessary. All patients with MS should have been taught, or agreed to learn to do CISC before being treated with BoNT-A injections as 88% of patients need to perform *de novo* CISC³³. However, the need for CISC did not affect quality of life outcomes³³.

Neuromodulation

Neuromodulation suggests a further therapy in patients with storage symptoms or even refractory urgency UI, although there are very limited data regarding its efficacy in patients with MS.

Tibial nerve stimulation (TNS)

It is a minimally invasive technique where the posterior tibial nerve is electrically stimulated either using a needle to deliver electrical stimulation (the percutaneous approach) or using an electrode patch (the transcutaneous approach). The first approach requires the insertion of a needle close to the tibial nerve by a health-care professional, in comparison to the transcutaneous method, which has the advantage that it can be easily used at home, either by the patient or by their carer¹. By this stimulation, somatic afferent branches that pass through the L4–S3 spinal roots inhibit the central reflex pathways which may cause uninhibited detrusor contractions. Percutaneous TNS has been shown to be effective in managing storage symptoms and improving urodynamic parameters in patients with MS^{34, 35}. Initial percutaneous stimulation is usually delivered during 30-min, weekly sessions, over a period of 10-12 weeks, and generally followed in responders by a period of maintenance therapy, of which the optimal characteristics are poorly defined. This therapy is safe, the patients' reported subjective and objective cure rates are between 60-80%, patients' treatment satisfaction is generally high (70%) and their overall quality of life is usually improved substantially³⁴⁻³⁶. PTNS may be a promising therapy for MS patients since it has no metallic implant limiting Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) use, and transcutaneous patches have been recently developed which may lead to home based therapies.

Sacral nerve stimulation (SNS)

It is a minimally invasive treatment that can be used to treat patients with treatment-refractory LUTS ow-



ing to a range of different underlying neurological diseases³⁷. SNS is indicated for refractory OAB, non-obstructive urinary retention and fecal incontinence. Similar to TNS, there are limited data regarding efficacy and treatment outcomes of SNS in MS patients. SNS might exert its effect through activation of afferent pathways that modulate the activity of other neural pathways within the spinal cord and higher centres. In a meta-analysis based in studies with limited sample sizes, it has been shown that SNS might be effective (in terms of reduced incontinence and fewer voids per day) and safe in patients with neurogenic LUTD³⁷. It has been proposed that SNS should be used in patients with MS of a relapse-remitting course, who have not had a relapse for at least 2 years. Unfortunately, there are no data from randomized controlled trials available in this area, and the types of patients who are most suitable for SNS are also largely unknown.

Surgery

In cases of MS patients where aforementioned therapies have failed or in certain situations such as sepsis, severe UI or inability for CISC, surgical treatments are efficient options.

Augmentation cystoplasty is a recommended treatment option for selected patients who are capable for CISC in the long term, but their LUTS are refractory to conservative treatment. It is performed using a detubularized ileal segment in order to restore a low-pressure and compliant reservoir to augment the urinary bladder along with urinary continence maintenance. There are a few studies with MS patients reporting improvement in maximum mean detrusor capacity and maximum detrusor pressure, as well as in continence and patient satisfaction rates^{38,39}. Therefore, augmentation cystoplasty is an effective surgical approach for MS patients who also have treatment-refractory neurogenic bladder, provided that patients are able to self-catheterize, and this approach can improve patients' LUT-specific quality of life¹. In cases where the patient is unable to perform CISC through the urethra, augmentation cystoplasty can also be performed concomitantly with a cutaneous continent urinary diversion, while for cosmetic reasons, the umbilicus is often used as the stoma site in these patients⁴⁰. However, there are cases such as quadriplegia, limited dexterity and/or devastating cognitive impairment that cause

serious inability for CISC. In order to restore a low-pressure reservoir without the use of an indwelling urethral, or suprapubic catheter and to improve QoL, a non-continent cutaneous diversion using an ileal conduit and a urine collecting device can also be performed⁴¹.

Management of voiding symptoms

CISC

CISC is the method of choice for the treatment of incomplete bladder emptying or urinary retention in patients with neurogenic bladder⁴² which was incidentally initially described in a MS patient⁴³. CISC has to be initiated in patients whose incomplete bladder emptying is reflected by the presence of a high residual volume, although the exact volume has not been defined yet and it depends upon the characteristics of each patient. Actually, no evidence-based cut off post-void residual value exists for the recommendation to start CISC in patients with MS-related LUTD⁵. However, using data from NARCOMS survey, CISC are suggested in patients with residual urine volume >100 ml confirmed with several ultrasonographic evaluations, in patients with chronic retention and a very weak urine stream as well as in patients with residual urine and upper urinary tract dilatations⁴⁴. The average frequency of catheterization per day is 4-6 times. CISC are rarely necessary in the early stages of MS but becomes increasingly likely to be needed as patient's mobility deteriorates. Proper use of CISC decreases the risk of UTIs and upper urinary tract damage, promotes urinary continence and improves patients' QoL^{7,45}.

Indwelling catheterization

For patients with high residual volume unwilling or unable to perform CISC, a long-term indwelling transurethral or suprapubic catheter is often used to ensure that the bladder empties and to provide urinary continence, although it is accompanied by several complications, such as recurrent UTIs, catheter blockages, catheter bypassing, urethral destruction or bladder stones⁴⁶.

Epilogue

LUTD are common in MS patients and have a negative impact on patients' QoL. First line treatment of storage symptoms are, apart from lifestyle modifications, antimuscarinics and β 3 agonists, while further treatments

range from injections of botulinum toxin into the bladder wall and neuromodulation to more complex surgical procedures. Voiding symptoms can be effectively managed mainly with CISC. However, given the fact that MS is a progressive neurological disorder with po-

tential changes in its clinical manifestations, long-term monitoring of patients is essential. 

Conflicts of interest

The author declared no conflict of interest.

Περίληψη

Η πολλαπλή σκλήρυνση είναι η συχνότερη προοδευτικά εξελισσόμενη νευρολογική πάθηση στους νέους, με τη δυσλειτουργία του κατώτερου ουροποιητικού να αποτελεί μια πολύ κοινή και νοσογόνο παράμετρο της νόσου, η οποία αφορά στην συντηρητική πλειοψηφία των ασθενών αυτών. Αν και η συμπτωματολογία από το ουροποιητικό είναι πολύ συχνή, δεν υπάρχουν ως τώρα μεγάλες προοπτικές μελέτες σχετικά με την αντιμετώπιση της δυσλειτουργίας της κύστης σε αυτούς τους ασθενείς, ενώ μόλις πρόσφατα δημοσιεύθηκαν τόσο ερωτηματολόγια για την αξιολόγηση των συμπτωμάτων από το ουροποιητικό στους ασθενείς ειδικά με πολλαπλή σκλήρυνση, όσο και καινούρια σκευάσματα. Στην παρούσα μελέτη προσπαθούμε να αναδείξουμε την ουρολογική σκοπιά της πολλαπλής σκλήρυνσης και να ανασκοπήσουμε τις θεραπευτικές μας δυνατότητες.

Λέξεις ευρετηριασμού

νευρογενής
κύστη, πολλαπλή
σκλήρυνση

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REVIEW

Zero ischemia partial nephrectomy: Techniques and outcomes

Panagiotis Mourmouris¹, Christos Papachristou², Titos Markopoulos¹, Maria Zerva¹, Omer Burak Argun³, Mustafa Bilal Tuna³, Andreas Skolarikos¹

¹2nd Department of Urology, University of Athens, Sismanogleio General Hospital, Greece

²Department of Urology, EL.AS.

³Urology Department, Acibadem University, Acibadem Maslak Hospital, Istanbul, Turkey

Abstract

Nephron sparing techniques nowadays have replaced radical nephrectomy as the gold standard management for T1a tumors. Even though the basic step of this technique was hilar clamping in order to achieve a bloodless surgical field and ease tumor excision and rennoraphy, many surgeons have moved one step further and developed minimal or no vessel clamping.

These techniques were grouped under the title of zero ischemia partial nephrectomy. Nevertheless there is a great heterogeneity in the literature concerning every aspect of this term including surgical steps, oncological outcomes and functional results. The purpose of this paper is to review the literature about this interesting topic and to clarify the different aspects of this challenging procedure.

Introduction

Radical nephrectomy for T1 renal tumors has been the gold standard technique for many decades until nephron sparing techniques have emerged with similar if not better oncological and safety outcomes and replaced it in everyday clinical practice¹. Furthermore minimal invasive techniques like laparoscopy or robot assisted laparoscopy with their unique characteristics provided a significant aid in optimizing this

challenging procedure. The body of the literature that proves their superiority in terms of functional outcomes is growing every day². From the dawn of partial nephrectomy its basic step was hilar clamping in order to achieve a bloodless surgical field and ease tumor excision and rennoraphy^{3,4}. The time that the hilar vessels remain clamped is called warm ischemia time (WIT) and its length is the topic of argument for many experts, who set it to 30 mins or more recently to 20

Key words
zero ischemia;
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renal cell carcinoma;
clampless

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Corresponding author:

Mourmouris Panagiotis, 2nd Department of Urology, University of Athens, Greece, 1 Sismanogleiou Street Marousi, Athens Greece, E-mail: info@minu.gr



mins. They believed that if WIT didn't pass this limit the impairment of renal function would be reversible and no long term renal functional loss was going to be established. This assumption prevailed until Thompson et al published their study suggesting that every minute of hilar clamping counts⁵ and their result confirmed by Gill et al who provided data that implied that this impairment in some categories of patients can be detrimental in the long term⁶. Under these suspicions a novel technique of "Zero" ischemia emerged, utilizing no renal artery occlusion⁶. We review the literature for this novel technique and report the different aspects of surgical steps and their outcomes and at the same time we try to shed light into the heterogeneity of the terminology and reporting of functional outcomes.

Material and Methods

We reviewed the literature for articles concerning zero ischemia partial nephrectomy for the management of renal cell carcinoma. The search was limited in articles which had at least an abstract written in English and were indexed in PubMed from 2000-2017. The keywords that were used in our search were renal cell carcinoma, zero ischemia, clampless. We studied all the relevant articles and we analyzed the ones with the biggest series. We excluded only the articles that weren't written in English and the case reports or case series with low number of patients (<10 patients).

Variations of techniques under the term zero ischemia

Reviewing literature ended up with a very interesting finding: the term "zero ischemia" is used to describe very different techniques including, "pure" off clamp techniques (with a variety of sub categories) but also "on clamp" techniques like high order arterial clamping, controlled hypotension and renal artery microdissection⁷. Furthermore several techniques, which were described as zero ischemia, in fact involve the placement of a clamp on a primary, secondary, tertiary or higher-order artery. On the other hand, other techniques that were described as 'off clamp' or clampless did not use the term zero ischemia. Great diversity also exists in reporting results of nearly every aspect of nephron-sparing surgery and **Table 1**.

One of the most popular techniques in nephron sparing surgery described as zero ischemia is arterial micro-

dissection combined with pharmacological controlled hypotension. It consists of microdissection and clip ligation of high order arterial branches during a short hypotension period induced by inhaled isoflurane and nitroglycerin. Gill et al⁶ first reported this technique which resulted in no eGFR and serum creatinine change between pre and post-operative values, possible due to continuous intrarenal arterial perfusion during nadir hypotensive period. On the other hand low pressure for a significant period of time cannot be tolerated from patients with cardio or cerebrovascular comorbidities and so controlled hypotension can be utilized only in selected patients. Other disadvantages include a more difficult (due to hemorrhage) suturing field, and the fact that it includes clamping even though it is on a small arterial branch. In pursuit of optimizing this technique Borofsky et al reported a possible aiding factor when performing this procedure robotically. The authors utilized the near infrared fluorescence imaging utility (NIRF) of the robotic platform after intravenous administration of 7.5 mg indocyanine green (ICG) and after placement of a microsurgical bulldog on the high end artery feeding the tumor. With this maneuver the tumor remains dark whereas the rest parenchyma turns into vivid green. The technique was successful on 93% of the patients and their matched pair analysis yielded statistical difference in terms of operation time in favor of the main artery clamping whereas the functional preservation outcomes were in favor of the NIFR group (-1,8% vs. 14,9% $p=0.03$)⁸. Even though this technique seem promising the short follow up period does not permit safe conclusions and require validation from bigger studies with longer follow up.

The above mentioned techniques required clamping somewhere in the renal artery tree. As experience with nephron sparing procedures increase, surgeons developed "clampless" techniques. All these procedures have a lot of differences but one common: they do not include clamping of any sort. Data in the literature generally agree that off clamp techniques provide better short term functional results but longer operation times and increased median estimated blood loss (EBL) when compared to on clamp techniques^{9,10}. The main disadvantage of these studies was the short follow up which can potentially be misleading since any advantage on eGFR values usually disappears in time¹¹. In pursuit of minimizing bleeding which is the main

Tumor Location	Anatomical Control	Type of ischemia	Duration of ischemia	Intraoperative assesment of renal surgical ischemia	Physiological Control
PADUA score	Global renal ischemia	Warm	Warm ischemia time	Visual inspection of renal parenchyma	Pneumoperitoneal pressure
Nephrometry score	Selective minimal renal ischemia	Cold		Doppler probe studies	Pharmacologically induced hypotension
Kidney segmentation system	Zero renal ischemia			Colour flow Dopple imaging	
				Indocyanine green fluorescence	

Duration of follow up	Biochemical parameters	Differential renal function with imaging scintigraphy	Biomarkers
3 to 24 months	eGFR	Tc-DTPA 99m	CKD
>24 months			
	eGFR or renal clearance normalized for BMI	Tc-DMSA 99m	DMSA
		99m Tc-MAG3	EDTA

factor that can implicate off clamp partial nephrectomy several minimally ischemic procedure were introduced including preoperative superselective transarterial embolization (P-STE) of the feeding artery of the tumor in a hybrid operation room which contains specialized equipment^{12,13,14}. Even though this idea seemed promising because of the favorable functional outcomes there are several risks including post embolization syndrome and positive surgical margins due to edema and the need of high tech equipment or straight access to operating room immediately after angiographic procedure. In the same pace smaller reports in the literature utilized different techniques in order to minimize hemorrhage during operation like harmonic scalpel¹⁵, running sutures before or/and during tumor resection¹⁶ and hemostatic agents¹⁷ with controversial results.

Functional outcomes: Do we speak the same language?

The major endpoint of all the studies concerning nephron sparing techniques is their functional out-

comes. Nevertheless reporting on this important issue lacks of consensus throughout literature. The great heterogeneity on functional outcomes is shown in **table 2**. The first and more crucial factor that may influence functional outcomes is follow up period. Many studies report better functional results after zero ischemia partial nephrectomy in the short term, results that are significantly diminished in other major studies that are reporting a longer follow up. Follow up period varies from 3 months to 24 months or more making comparison with other techniques extremely difficult. Another important issue is the strength of the factors that are utilized in order to measure the loss of renal function. Even the most easy to access and most widely adopted, the estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR), has major disadvantages include, ignoring patient BMI, its approximation nature and its low sensitivity on detecting changes in unilateral renal function due to opposite kidney increased function^{18,19}. The need for accurate detection of renal failure has lead researchers utilize renal scintigraphy²⁰ or novel biomarkers that are more sensitive to kidney injury (Cystatic C, Kidney injury mol-

TABLE 3 Studies included with their basic characteristics and reported results

	Type of procedure	No of patient	Tumor Size(cm)	Type of approach	WIT (min)	EBL (ml)	PSM	MC (%)	eGFR decrease (range)
Gill et al. ⁶	VMD	44	4.3(±2.6)	Lap/Rob	0	235.7(±210)	0	0	-10.2
Borofsky et al. ⁸	SSAC	54	2.79	Rob	0	206.5(25-600)	0	0	-1.8
Bigot P et al. ¹²	P-STE	3	3-15	Lap	0	<100	0	0	NA
Hou CP et al. ¹⁵	HS	19	3.4(1.3-6.2)	Rob	0	100(30-950)	5.3	0	-4.7
Rizkala et al. ¹⁶	PSR	14	2.2(1.45-3)	Rob	0 (14.5-15 for 2 patients)	192.5(100-300)	7.1	0	8.1

VMD=vascular microdissection, Lap=Laparoscopic, Rob=Robotic, WIT=warm ischemia time, EBL=estimated blood loss, PSM=positive surgical margins, MC=Major complications, eGFR=estimated glomerular filtration rate (at 2 months), SSAC=superselective arterial clamping, P-STE=preoperative superselective transarterial embolization, HS=Harmonic Scalpel, PSR=preplaced suture renorrhaphy

ecule 1)²¹ but their results need further optimization.

Zero ischemia: Does it make any difference?

Even though it seems logical that lesser or no ischemia during nephron sparing surgery leads to lesser renal function loss this assumption is not reinforced from most published papers in the literature. Big studies reveal a small advantage of zero ischemia techniques in terms of functional outcomes on the short term (3 months 8% vs. 1.5% $p=0.04$) but this advantage disappears during longer follow up period (>1 year)²². On the other hand meta-analysis that demonstrate an advantage of off clamp techniques versus hilar clamp techniques must be interpreted with caution since there is significant bias regarding patient selection²³ and quality of included studies²⁴. Finally one important question in the minimal invasive urology era is if minimal invasive techniques (laparoscopic or robotic) provide any advantage in the final functional outcomes compared

with open partial approach. In this question Mearini et al answered with a study of over 150 patients that didn't find any statistical significant difference when comparing open, laparoscopic and robotic approaches in terms of pre and post-operative eGFR changes²⁵.

Conclusion

In pursuit of better functional outcomes after partial nephrectomy, many surgeons utilized different zero or minimal ischemia techniques with promising results, despite the fact that there is no consensus in post-operative outcomes reporting. Zero ischemia doesn't seem to provide any significant advantage over hilar clamping nevertheless increasing surgical experience and novel markers may change this conclusion in the near future. 

Conflicts of interest

The author declared no conflict of interest.

Περίληψη

Η μερική νεφρεκτομή πλέον έχει αντικαταστήσει την ριζική νεφρεκτομή στην αντιμετώπιση του νεφροκυτταρικού καρκίνου σταδίου T1a. Βασικό χειρουργικό βήμα στην μερική νεφρεκτομή είναι το clamping της νεφρικής αρτηρίας με στόχο την διατήρηση ενός μη αιμορραγικού χειρουργικού πεδίου το οποίο βοηθά στην καλύτερη εκτομή του όγκου αλλά και συρραφή του νεφρικού παρεγχύματος. Ωστόσο πολλοί χειρουργοί θέλοντας να βελτιώσουν την μέθοδο αυτή μειώνοντας όσο το δυνατόν τον χρόνο νεφρικής ισχαιμίας ανέπτυξαν ελάχιστα ή και καθόλου ισχαιμικές τεχνικές. Οι τεχνικές αυτές παρότι ομα-

**Λέξεις
ευρητηριασμού**
Μηδενική ισχαιμία,
μερική νεφρεκτομή,
νεφροκυτταρικός
καρκίνος

Περίληψη (συνέχεια)

δοποιήθηκαν κάτω από τον τίτλο μερική νεφρεκτομή μηδενικής ισχαιμίας, παρουσιάζουν μεγάλη ετερογένεια τόσο στα χειρουργικά βήματα όσο και στην παρουσίαση των ογκολογικών και λειτουργικών αποτελεσμάτων τους. Ο σκοπός της παρούσας μελέτης είναι η ανασκόπηση της βιβλιογραφίας για το ενδιαφέρον αυτό θέμα αλλά και η αποσαφήνιση των διαφορετικών πτυχών της απαιτητικής αυτής χειρουργικής προσέγγισης.

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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Surgeons' self-assessed learning curve for Thulium-assisted Laser Prostatectomy: Evaluation of a nationwide Survey

Thomas Herrmann¹, Panagiotis Kallidonis², Dimitrios Kotsiris², Iason Kyriazis², Panteleimon Ntasiotis², Wissam Kamal², Evangelos Liatsikos²

¹Department of Urology and Urooncology, Hannover Medical School (MHH), Hannover, Germany

²Department of Urology, University of Patras, Patras, Greece

Abstract

Introduction: To assess the reported by surgeons learning curve of Thulium:Yttrium aluminium garnet (Tm:YAG)-assisted prostatectomy techniques in the management of benign prostatic obstruction.

Methods: A survey investigated surgical background information and experience with Tm:YAG for laser-assisted prostatectomy in surgeons of Urologic Departments in Germany.

Results: 65 questionnaires were distributed. A 38% of them were responded. All participants were familiar with Transurethral Resection of the Prostate while 48% of them had a previous knowledge in laser prostatectomy before initiating the Tm:YAG experience. Only 5% of them considered previous experience with other laser prostatectomies necessary to safe-

ly embark on Tm:YAG procedures. 96% and 80% of the surgeons had training by the company and at congresses or workshops, respectively. According to the surgeons, a mean number of 24 cases were necessary to reach a plateau in performance. 12% of the surgeons considered more than 50 procedures as necessary to reach surgical expertise. The experience with Tm:YAG prostatectomy was considered as positive by 92% of the participants.

Conclusion: Tm:YAG-assisted prostatectomy requires 24 procedures to achieve surgical confidence. Laser-naive urologists can learn how to perform a Tm:YAG prostatectomy even without proctoring. Technical training at congresses or workshops was important for learning the techniques.

Key words

**Tm:YAG; thulium;
laser; prostatectomy;
enucleation**

Citation

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Corresponding author:

Panagiotis Kallidonis M.D PhD, FEBU, Department of Urology, University of Patras Medical School, Rion, 26 504, Patras, Greece
E-mail: pkallidonis@yahoo.com

Introduction

Transurethral Resection of Prostate (TURP) has been traditionally considered the gold standard treatment option in the surgical management of Benign Prostate Hyperplasia (BPH)¹. Laser-assisted transurethral prostatectomy represent a valid alternative to TURP. Its favorable safety profile has been characterized by increasing popularity during the last decade². Thulium: Yttrium-aluminum-garnet (Tm:YAG) laser is one of the contemporary laser systems used for the surgical management of BPH. Its main benefit over Holmium: Yttrium-aluminum-garnet (Ho:YAG) is related to its soft tissue vaporizing capacity due to its continuous wave output (cw) of energy. On the contrary, the Ho:YAG as a pulsed laser mainly acts by tearing of soft tissue with an associated limited vaporizing effect³. In comparison to Lithium-Borate (LBO) or Kalium-Titanyl-Phosphaste (KTP) Lasers (i.e. "green-light" lasers), the Tm:YAG laser can deliver energy on a thermo-stabile chromophore (i.e. H₂O) safely which results in immediate vaporization with lower optical and thermal penetration of the underlying tissue⁴. The laser energy can be delivered through reusable bare fibers which facilitate all modes of action. Thus, it is versatile enough to respond to a great variety of different techniques including prostate vaporization, vaporesection and enucleation⁵.

Two Tm:YAG based enucleation techniques have been proposed⁶. Thulium Vapoenucleation (ThuVEP) was described by Bach et al. in 2009. It is an enucleating technique using constant energy application (vapoenucleation) by vaporizing and incising at the level of the surgical capsule^{7,8}. Transurethral anatomical enucleation of the prostate with Tm:YAG-assistance (ThuLEP) was introduced by Herrmann et al. in 2010. The latter technique differentiates from all other energy-based transurethral enucleating techniques as a mainly mechanical blunt enucleation of the adenoma with the aid of Tm:YAG laser energy. The latter is used for the dissection of the mucosa and the capsular adhesions. The stress in this context lays on the visibility of the surgical anatomy such as the identification of the prostatic capsule throughout the procedure.^{9,10}

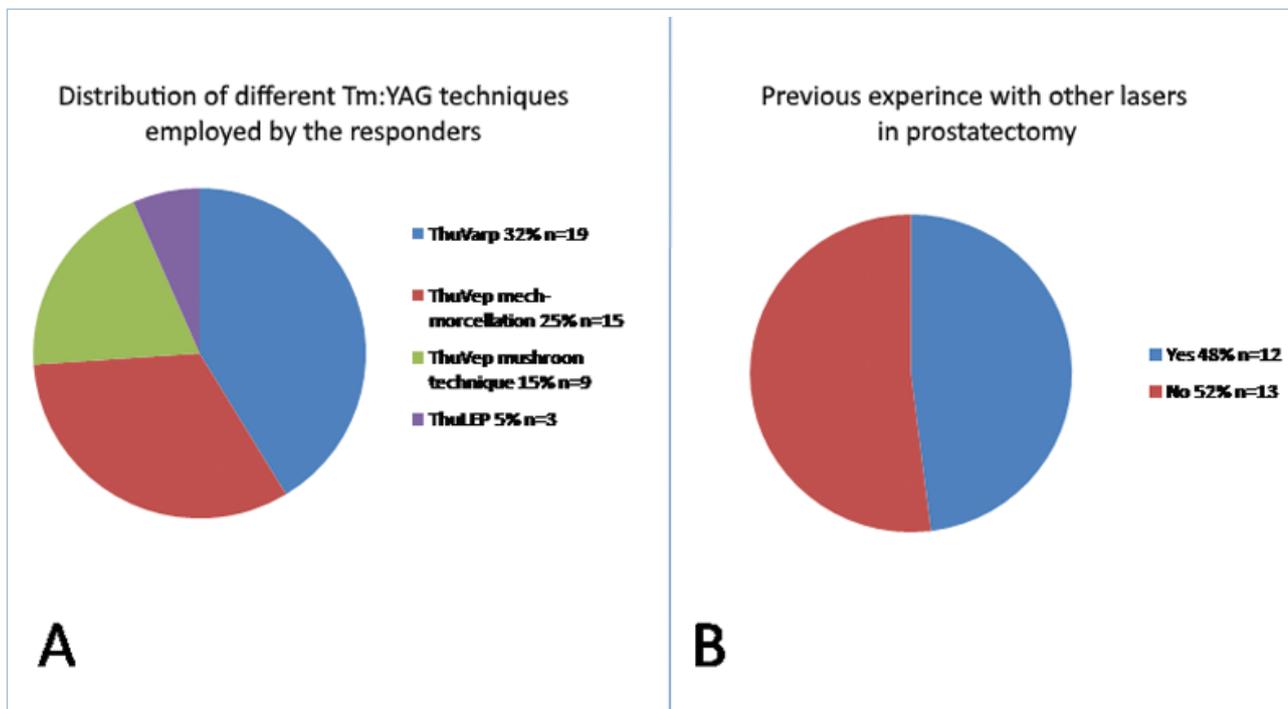
The diffusion of any novel technique in the surgical community is greatly affected by the associated learning curve. The length and the difficulty of its learning curve could significantly influence its adap-

tation and is associated with the training effort required for a surgeon to achieve competence. Operations characterized by a steep learning curve require more intensive training and proctoring in the initial cases as opposed to less complicated procedures¹¹. Thus, the evaluation of the learning curve is important for any newly introduced technique. Nevertheless, available tools for the learning curve assessment have been criticized for being poor¹². The evaluation of the learning curve could not be only based on the assessment of clinical parameters such as operational time, blood loss and complications. The opinion of the surgeon on the number of cases required to feel confident with the approach is of great value. In this study we aimed into assessing the learning curve of Tm:YAG-assisted prostatectomy by performing a survey among the surgeons that employ the laser-assisted prostatectomy techniques.

Methods

A nationwide survey was conducted among German Urology departments possessing a Revolix Tm:YAG Laser system (Lisa laser products OHG, Katlenburg-Lindau, Germany). A total number of 65 surgeons employing the Tm:YAG Laser system received a questionnaire composed of 12 questions:

- Year of purchase of Tm:YAG generator.
- Technique implemented in the use of Tm:YAG for prostatectomies.
- Previous experience with TURP.
- Previous experience with Laser-assisted Prostatectomy techniques, type, number and influence on learning curve.
- Attending teaching programmes on laser-assisted prostatectomies.
- Attending courses or live operative workshops.
- Attending mentoring programmes.
- Assistance by an experience surgeon during the first procedures.
- Self- assessment of the learning curve plateau.
- The number of surgical procedures that have been performed till the date of the questionnaire.
- Do you consider it necessary, that a urologist should do at least 50 cases independently before the Thulep technique is mastered?
- Was the experience with the use of Revolix both successful and recommendable?



Graph 1 : A) Different techniques that were performed by the participating surgeons
B) Previous experience with other laser prostatectomy techniques

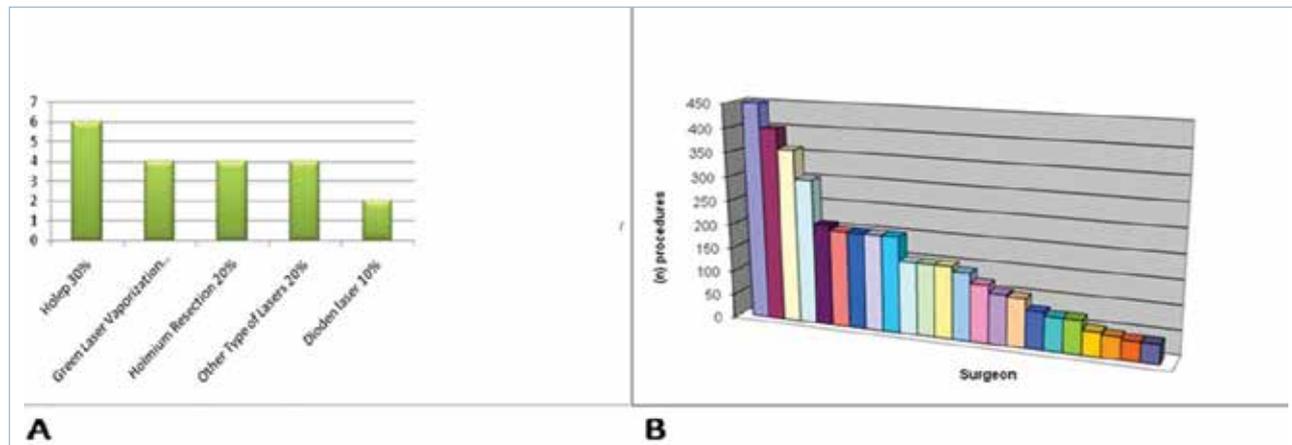
Results

25 out of 65 questionnaires were answered by a respective number of surgeons and resulted in a response rate of 38%. 6% ($n=4$) of the questionnaires were not delivered, 6% ($n=4$) of the participating surgeons were unavailable, while 2% ($n=1$) were not willing to participate. The year of purchase of the Tm:YAG generators of the participating surgeons ranged between 2005-2012 with most of the devices purchased after 2009. The majority of responding surgeons adopted more than one Tm: YAG laser treatment techniques. The Tm:YAG laser vaporesction (ThuVARP) technique was performed by 32% ($n=19$) of the surgeons, followed by Tm:YAG vapo-enucleation and mechanical morcellation (ThuVEP) technique with a percentage of 25% ($n=15$). The Tm:YAG laser vaporisation (ThuVAP) and vapo-enucleation with the mushroom (ThuVEP) techniques were performed by 22% ($n=13$) and 15% ($n=9$) of the surgeons, respectively. Only 5% ($n=3$) of the surgeons used the Tm:YAG laser for anatomical enucleation (ThuLEP) of the prostate in their practice (**Graph1A**).

All of the participants had previous experience with TURP. A total of 12 surgeons (48%) had previous ex-

perience with other types of laser prostatectomies (**Graph1B**). Among the latter group of surgeons, 30% had experience with Holmium:yttrium-aluminum-garnet (Hol:YAG) laser enucleation, 20% with Greenlaser photoselective vaporization, 20% with Hol:YAG resection, 20% with other types of lasers and 10% with vaporization using a Diode laser (Graph2A). The number of previously performed laser procedures for prostate with other types of lasers ranged between 15 and 255 with a mean number of 77 cases.

The previous experience with other types of laser prostatectomy was considered by only 5% ($n=1$) of responders as necessary to safely embark on Tm: YAG prostatectomy. Regarding training methodology, 96% ($n=24$) of the responders received technical training by the company and 80% ($n=20$) of the surgeons participated in congress workshops under the supervision of the manufacturer. In addition, 72% ($n=18$) had a clinical visit at KOL-site for additional training. Of notice, only 36% ($n=9$) of surgeons had the assistance of a Mentor during their first cases. The vast majority of responders (92%) rated the way of implementation of Tm:YAG surgery into their practice as successful and could recommend it.



Graph 2: A) Experience with previous laser prostatectomy techniques

B) Experience of the participating surgeons in Tm:YAG-assisted prostatectomy

The number of Tm:YAG prostatectomies performed by the participants ranged from 30 to 450 (*mean number*=155) at the time of the survey (Graph2B). The participating surgeons responded that a mean of 24 Tm:YAG prostatectomies (range 0-50) were necessary to reach a plateau in performance. Nevertheless, 12% ($n=3$) of responders considered more than 50 procedures mandatory to achieve expertise with the technique. Feeling confidence was the parameter for the assessment of the learning curve by 5 surgeons. The remaining of the participants proposed that avoiding long operational times was more important. Results are summarized in **Table 1**.

Discussion

Since the introduction by Gilling et al. of Ho:YAG laser in the surgical management BPH, several lasers and techniques have been developed as an alternative to the traditional TURP^{4,13-15}. The most prominent techniques for Tm:YAG laser are the ThuVaP (vaporization), ThuVaRP (vaporesction), ThuVEP (vapoenucleation) and ThuLEP (anatomical enucleation)⁶. In ThuVaP, the prostatic adenoma is being removed through pure vaporization⁵. ThuVaRP is a combination of resection of TUR-like tissue chips with simultaneous vaporization¹⁶. In ThuVEP, the prostatic tissue is enucleated in a three lobe technique and then the lobes are vaporized avoiding mechanical morcellation⁷. In addition, the Tm:YAG Laser Enucleation of the Prostate (ThuLEP) employs the laser for apical incision of the prostatic tissue down to its surgical capsule, which is followed by

a blunt anatomical enucleation of the adenoma with the sheath of the resectoscope. The laser is used only for punctual coagulation of bleeding vessels. The enucleated lobes are pushed in the bladder and eventually are being morcellated⁹.

Although there are several studies assessing the safety and efficacy of the aforementioned Tm:YAG approaches, available data regarding the learning curve of the respective procedures are poor. In the current study, the first evidence on a relative short learning curve for Tm:YAG prostatectomy is provided based on the feedback from urologists who adapted these techniques. According to the participants' opinion, a mean of 24 procedures is required to achieve competence whereas only a minority of the responders set this level to be above 50 operations. It should be noted that nearly half of the participating surgeons reported a previous experience with other types of laser prostatectomies and this experience may have had an impact on to the learning curve of the Tm:YAG-assisted technique. Previous experience with TURP could be also a contributing factor in the learning of Tm:YAG prostatectomy techniques and all participants were familiar with TURP in the current study. Accordingly, Netsch et al. compared the learning curve of ThuVEP between a urology resident with no experience in transurethral prostate surgery and an experienced urologist. These investigators concluded that it is beneficial to have experience in endourology in order to overcome the learning curve of the procedure¹¹.

Technical training by the Tm:YAG laser manufactur-

TABLE 1	Results of the survey	
	Number or Mean (range)	Percentage
Number of questioners distributed	65	
Participants	25	38%
Year of purchase of Tm:YAG device	2005-2012	
Technique implemented		
ThuVAP	19	32%
ThuVEP mech morcellation	15	25%
ThuVAP	13	22%
ThuVEP mushroom	9	15%
ThuLEP	3	5%
Previous experience with TURP	25	100%
Previous experience with other types of laser	12	48%
HoLEP	6	30%
Greenlight vaporessection	4	20%
Holmium resection	4	20%
Dioden Laser	2	10%
Other	4	20%
Number of procedures with other types of laser	77 (15-250)	Mean:
Is pre-knowledge with other types of laser necessary to adopt Tm:YAG prostatectomy		
Yes	1	4%
No	24	95%
Training methods		
Technical training by the company	24	96%
Congress-workshop	20	80%
KOL-site	18	72%
Mentor based first steps	9	36%
How many cases to reach plateau	24 (0-50)	
Number of Tm:YAG prostatectomy procedures performed	155 (30-450)	
Is 50 procedures mandatory to be qualified for performing Tm:YAG prostatectomy		
Yes	3	12%
No	22	88%
Do you rate the way of implementation successful		
Yes	24	96%
No	1	4%

ing company seemed to be of great value for learning the Tm:YAG assisted prostatectomy and 96% of the participants had technical training by the company in congresses and workshops. On the contrary, only 36% had a Mentor-based tutoring of the techniques. Saredi et al. have demonstrated that it is feasible for laser-na-

ive urologists to perform ThuLEP without tutoring using a simulator model¹⁷. Nevertheless, the impact of the mentor on the process of teaching a urological technique should not be neglected. Another study showed that mentoring may decrease the learning curve of ThuVEP¹¹.

Current literature contains controversial evidence on the learning curve of other than Tm: YAG lasers in the treatment of BPH and limited information on the learning curve of Tm: YAG prostatectomy. In the case of Ho:YAG Laser Enucleation of the Prostate (HoLEP), several studies evaluated the learning curve with the use of different assessment methods resulting in a wide discrepancy in the proposed number of cases necessary to achieve competence. While some reports consider 20 cases adequate for overcoming the learning curve, other investigators proposed at least 50 procedures for achieving competence and consider HoLEP to be one of the most difficult transurethral procedures to master¹⁸⁻²⁰. Similarly, a long lasting learning curve of 120 procedures have been documented for high power photoselective vaporization of the prostate (PVP) using the GreenLight™ 180-Watt-XPS laser²¹.

It is important to emphasize that all available studies evaluating the learning of laser prostatectomy with the use of Ho: YAG, Greenlight laser or Tm: YAG laser focused on the improvement of clinical outcomes such as the efficient enucleation and the operative time without addressing the feedback from surgeons^{18,19,21,22}. The current study introduced the self-assessment of performance as an integral part of learning curve evaluation as it is not only the clinical parameters that are important on a given operation but also the subjective belief of competency and confidence by the operating surgeon.

Limitations of the current study are the lack of clinical outcomes and the retrospective character of the survey. The questionnaire focused only on the opinions and feedback of the responding urologists for the assessment of the learning curve and extracted evi-

dence focused on the training process that had been followed in order the surgeons to gain familiarity with the Tm: YAG-assisted prostatectomy. Further studies correlating the feedback of the surgeons regarding the competence in the performance of the procedure with clinical parameters are deemed necessary to provide more reliable and accurate information on the learning curve. Another limitation of this investigation is that a variety of different Tm: YAG-assisted techniques were included such as vaporization, resection and enucleation. Differences in the learning curve among them may be present. Thus, the currently provided evidence on the learning curve of Tm:YAG prostatectomy warrants further investigation of each of the approaches.

Conclusion

According to the surgeons using Tm: YAG laser, the Tm:YAG assisted prostatectomy has an acceptable learning curve of 24 procedures to achieve surgical confidence for the procedure. It is feasible for laser-naive urologists to learn to perform Tm:YAG prostatectomy techniques even without tutoring. Technical training by the manufacturing company seems to be of great value for learning of Tm: YAG prostatectomy techniques. The self-assessment of the learning curve by the surgeons provided a valuable insight on the cases requested to reach confidence in Tm: YAG-assisted prostatectomy. Further evaluation involving clinical outcomes is deemed necessary to determine more accurately the learning curve of this promising laser approach. □

Conflicts of interest

The author declared no conflict of interest.

Περίληψη

Εισαγωγή: Σκοπός της μελέτης ήταν η αξιολόγηση από χειρουργούς της καμπύλης εκμάθησης των τεχνικών προστατεκτομής υποβοηθούμενης με Thulium:Yttrium aluminium garnet (Tm:YAG) laser για τη διαχείριση της καλοήθους υπερπλασίας του προστάτη.

Μέθοδοι: Η μελέτη διερεύνησε πληροφορίες του χειρουργικού υποβάθρου και της εμπειρίας χειρουργών Ουρολογικών Τμημάτων στη Γερμανία στην προστατεκτομή υποβοηθούμενη με τη χρήση Tm: YAG laser.

Αποτελέσματα: 65 ερωτηματολόγια διανεμήθηκαν ισάριθμους χειρουργούς εκ των οποίων μόνο το 38% απάντησε. Όλοι οι συμμετέχοντες ήταν εξοικειωμένοι με τη διουρηθρική προστατεκτομή, ενώ το 48% είχε ήδη γνώση της προστατεκτομής υποβοηθούμενης με laser προτού ξεκινήσει η εμπειρία με το Tm: YAG laser. Μόνο το 5% των χειρουργών είχαν προηγούμενη εμπειρία με άλλες laser προστατεκτομές που ήταν απαραίτητη για να ξεκινήσουν

με ασφάλεια τη χρήση του Tm: YAG laser. Το 96% των χειρουργών είχαν κατάρτιση από εταιρεία και το 80% από συνέδρια ή εργαστήρια, αντίστοιχα. Σύμφωνα με τους χειρουργούς, ένας μέσος αριθμός 24 περιστατικών ήταν απαραίτητος για

να φθάσει η απόδοση σε ένα πλατώ. Το 12% των χειρουργών θεώρησαν πως χρειάζονται πάνω από 50 διαδικασίες για να αποκτηθεί επάρκεια για την επέμβαση αυτή. Η εμπειρία με την Tm · YAG προστατεκτομή θεωρήθηκε θετική από το 92% των συμμετεχόντων.

Συμπέρασμα: Η Υποβοηθούμενη από Tm: YAG laser προστατεκτομή απαιτεί 24 επεμβάσεις για την επίτευξη χειρουργικής αυτο-

πεποίθησης. Οι Ουρολόγοι που δεν έχουν οικειότητα με laser μπορούν να μάθουν πώς να εκτελέσουν μια προστατεκτομή υποβοηθούμενη με Tm: YAG laser ακόμη και χωρίς επιβλεψη. Η τεχνική κατάρτιση σε συνέδρια ή εργαστήρια ήταν σημαντική για την εκμάθηση των τεχνικών.

Λέξεις ευρητηριασμού

εκπυρήνιση,
προστατεκτομή,
laser, Tm:YAG,
Holmium

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CASE REPORT

Intratesticular varicocele: A rare finding of unknown significance. Report of 2 cases

Georgios Tsamboukas¹, Panagiotis Kartsaklis¹, Panagiotis Politis¹, Sotiris Andreadakis², Aspasia Kapetanopoulou³, Panagiotis Iliopoulos³, Athanasios Papatsoris⁴, Aristomenis Gekas¹

¹General Hospital of Patras, Department of Urology, Patras, Greece

²Private Urological Office, Kilkis, Greece

³General Hospital of Patras, Department of Radiology, Patras, Greece

⁴Sismanoglio University Hospital of Athens, Department of Urology, Athens, Greece

Abstract

Extratesticular varicocele is a frequent entity, with a reported occurrence of 20% in the male population. Conversely, intratesticular varicocele is an extremely uncommon condition, limited reported in the literature. The diagnosis cannot be made clinically and is established with Doppler ultrasound examination. Intratesticular varicocele may be associated with infertility, especially in cases of concurrent extratesticular varicocele. In this paper, we present two cases of young men who were diagnosed with both extratesticular and intratesticular varicocele.



Key words

**varicocele;
intratesticular
varicocele; infertility;
colour Doppler
ultrasonography**

Citation

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Introduction

Extratesticular varicocele (ETV) is a common clinical condition, defined as the dilatation of the testicular vein and the pampiniform venous plexus within the spermatic cord, reporting in up to 20% of male population¹. The condition is considered congenital and is caused importantly by incompetent valves of the internal spermatic veins². Rarely, the condition occurs within the testis, so called intratesticular varicocele (ITV) and appears as dilated veins radiating from the mediastinum into the pa-

renchyma³. Gray scale scrotal ultrasonography demonstrates tubular or serpentine vascular structures, which exhibit internal blood flow and positive Valsava maneuver⁴. In this paper, we present two cases of intratesticular varicoceles in young adults. In both cases, the condition was successfully resolved via varicocelectomy of the contemporary extratesticular varicocele.

Case presentation

A 23-year old man presented to our department re-

Corresponding author:

Georgios Tsamboukas, MD, Resident of Urology, Department of Urology, General Hospital of Patras, Patra, 26335, E-mail: tsampoukasg@gmail.com

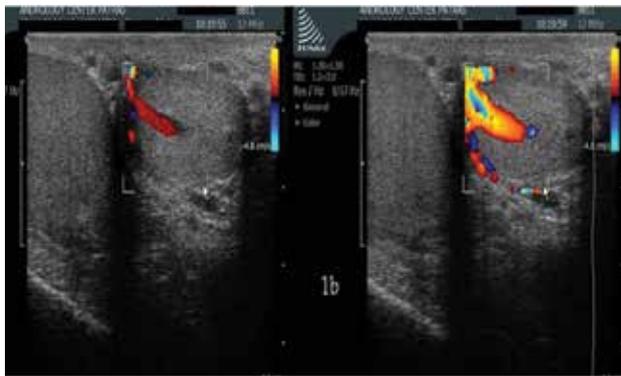


Figure 1. 1a) During CDU, the left central testicular vein feeding the pampiniform plexus was found dilated. 1b) During Valsava maneuver, retrograde flow was demonstrated



Figure 2. 2a) A cystic structure in the lower pole of the left testis was found during gray scale scan. 2b) Performance of CDU showed internal blood flow into the structure; a positive Valsava maneuver revealed the second ITV in the same testicle

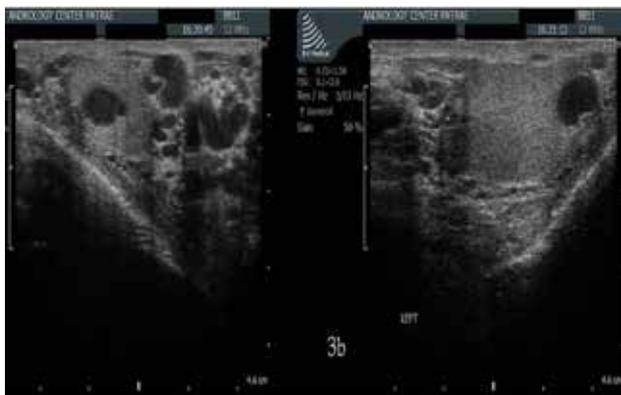


Figure 3. 3a) Gray scale scrotal ultrasound confirmed the palpable varicose veins of the gubernaculum in the left testicle; a cystic structure in the lower pole was also found. 3b) The cystic-like structure in the lower pole of left testicle, giving the impression of an intratesticular, subcapsular cyst

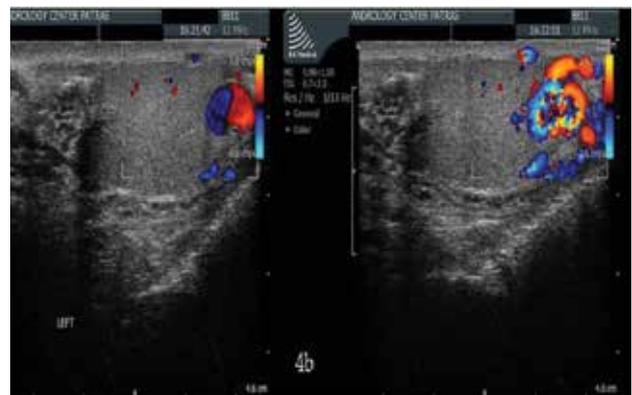


Figure 4. 4a) CDU showed internal blood flow into the structure. 4b) Positive Valsava maneuver established the diagnosis of an ITV; a second, much smaller, subcapsular ITV was shown in the posterior aspect of the organ

questing routine scrotal examination, as he had undergone left orchidopexy due to undescended left testicle when he was infant. Clinical examination of the scrotum showed a hypotrophic left testis, while the right testis was palpated normal. Scrotal ultrasonography confirmed the discrepancy of volume between testicles and dilated spermatic veins of left pampiniform venous plexus associated with retrograde blood during Valsava maneuver. In addition, a hypoechoic tubular and a cystic structure were found in mediastinum and lower pole of left testis, accordingly. During Doppler ultrasonography, these structures demonstrated constant internal blood flow which was exacerbated during Valsava maneuver (**Figure 1, 2**). Thus, a diagnosis of extratesticular and

intratesticular varicocele in left testis was established. The right testis did not carry any evidence of varicocele or other pathology. A spermiogram was requested which demonstrated oligo-asthenospermia and abnormal morphology. Due to severe oligospermia (approximately 5 millions/ml of ejaculation fluid), the patient was undergone endocrinologic setup, karyotype analysis and test for detection of deletions chromosome Y; all tests were normal. Under these circumstances, the combination of extratesticular and intratesticular varicocele was considered as the remaining treatable cause of sperm parameters deterioration; the patient was counseled to undergo subinguinal left varicocelectomy.

A second, 26-year-old patient, presented to our de-



partment reporting a subacute, dull, scrotal pain during the past 6 months. The patient reported scrotal trauma in his left testicle when he was a child; the condition was managed conservatively. During clinical examination bilateral large varicoceles were found; the lesions were visible and palpable at rest. Scrotal ultrasonography manifested bilateral, dilated extratesticular veins, outnumbered in left testicle, of maximal diameter of 5.4 mm, associated with retrograde blood flow during moderately tense inspiration. In addition, an intratesticular varicocele was found in the lower pole of left testicle (**Figure 3, 4**). The left testicle was found hypotrophic, but the right was measured within normal limits. A spermiogram was requested which demonstrated deterioration of semen parameters. The patient was informed of the possible detrimental effect of clinical varicoceles on spermatogenesis and endocrine function of the organ and he was counseled to undergo bilateral varicocelectomy.

Postoperative follow-up was done in both patients, showing disappearance of extra- and intratesticular components of varicoceles. In the second patient, the scrotal pain was successfully regressed. After 10 months, an improvement of semen parameters regarding total sperm count, mobility and morphology was observed in both patients.

Discussion

In search of intratesticular varicocele in the medical literature, we came before an extremely rare entity. Since first description by Weiss et al, who noted intratesticular varicocele in two men with scrotal pain¹, only sporadic single case reports and small series have contributed to our knowledge of the condition. However, if a prevalence has to be estimated, the lesion does not seem to exceed 2% of cases of scrotal pathology⁵.

The pathogenesis of intratesticular varicocele seems to be similar to the extratesticular component, as far as the lesion is found commonly in association with an extratesticular varicocele and shares same characteristics, like left predominance and increased flow during Valsava maneuver¹⁻⁹. In addition, previous ipsilateral genitourinary surgical procedures and especially orchidopexy may be implicated in etiology of both left and right ITVs, as has been reported in some case series^{1,4,7}. In the largest relative study, Meij-de Vries et al analyzing 105 patients who had prepubertally undergone or-

chidopexy found a remarkably high prevalence (8.6 %) of intratesticular varicocele in these men; a rational explanation given by the authors is the damage of testicular vessels during mobilization of the organ which may result in total incompetence of the valves of veins of the pampiniform plexus^{4,7}. For similar reason, isolated ITV may metachronously occur, as a result of testicular surgery for tumors⁴. Testicular atrophy of various reasons has also hypothesized as a cause for the development of ITV, as the loss of surrounding parenchyma may allow enlargement of intratesticular venous structures⁴. The latter hypothesis could also apply in our patients. Namely, it is possible that testicular atrophy might have come before, as a late complication of previous surgical exploration and trauma accordingly. As a lesion in anatomical continuity with the extratesticular component, the intratesticular varicoceles may have gradually developed as a subsequent phenomenon. To our experience, we cannot directly hold extratesticular varicoceles accountable for the development of ITV, as far as the condition has never been observed before in a large population of patients with both clinical and subclinical varicoceles managed in our center.

Since non-palpable during physical examination, the diagnosis of intratesticular varicocele is based on specific ultrasonographic findings. These lesions appear as tubular, serpentine or oval intratesticular structures which demonstrate increased and retrograded internal blood flow during Valsava maneuver^{3,8,10}. The lesions may be located within the parenchyma, in the mediastinum, or have subcapsular location^{2,3,5,10}. A minimum limit of 2 mm or greater in diameter may be used for the definition of an ITV; however, some authors define as ITV any intratesticular venous structure which exhibits reflux during Valsava, regardless of cutoff of 2 mm^{4,8,10}. These lesions are mainly on the left side; though bilateral or isolated right cases have been observed^{2-4,9}. The differential diagnosis of the condition consists of tubular or cystic lesions of the testis, like intratesticular, subcapsular cysts and tubular ectasia or cystic dysplasia of rete testis⁴. Cystic teratoma of the testis is also a rare tumor which can mimic ITV, but a positive response to Valsava maneuver differentiates the condition³.

The clinical spectrum of ITV may vary from asymptomatic course to painful scrotum, hypogonadism and infertility^{3,4,6,9}. The latter is possibly the most significant manifestation of ITV, arising likely from the concur-

rent extratesticular varicocele, testicular atrophy and growth asymmetry between right and left testicles^{1-4,7}. In such cases, varicocelectomy results in disappearance or regression of intratesticular component and rebound growth and may be helpful in resolution of infertility^{1-3,6}. In case of isolated ITV percutaneous sclerotherapy and catheterization of the spermatic vein and embolization have been associated with successful results⁹.

In conclusion, ITV is a rare entity of unknown clinical significance. The lesion may accompany extratesticular varicoceles or testicular atrophy and may be associated with infertility or testicular pain. The diagnosis of ITV can be made easily via ultrasound and the uro-

gist should be aware of the condition, in order that an accurate diagnosis to be set. Ligation of the concurrent extratesticular varicocele can resolve ITV and offer desirable results. 

Conflicts of interest

The author declared no conflict of interest.

Abbreviations

EXT = extratesticular varicocele

ITV = intratesticular varicocele

CDU = colour doppler Ultrasonography

FSH = follicle-stimulating hormone

Περίληψη

Η εξωορχική κισσοκήλη είναι μια συχνή οντότητα, με αναφερόμενη εμφάνιση στο 20% του ανδρικού πληθυσμού. Αντιστρόφως, η ενδοορχική κισσοκήλη είναι ιδιαίτερα σπάνια κατάσταση, ελάχιστα αναφερόμενη στην βιβλιογραφία. Η διάγνωση δεν μπορεί να γίνει κλινικά και τεκμηριώνεται μέσω έγχρωμης υπερηχογραφικής εξέτασης. Η ενδοορχική κισσοκήλη μπορεί να συνδέεται με υπογονιμότητα, ιδιαίτερα σε περιπτώσεις σύγχρονης εξωορχικής κισσοκήλης. Σε αυτή την εργασία, παρουσιάζουμε δυο περιπτώσεις νεαρών ανδρών που διεγνώσθησαν με εξωορχική και ενδοορχική κισσοκήλη.



Λέξεις ευρητηριασμού

κισσοκήλη, ενδοορχική
κισσοκήλη,
υπογονιμότητα, έγχρωμη
Doppler υπερηχογραφία

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CASE REPORT

A hybrid penile carcinoma with presence of anterior urethral dysplasia

Georgios Tsamboukas¹, Eleni Vlotinou², Ioanna Kotsikogianni², Gerasimos Vandoros², Kristiana Gkeka³, Kartsaklis Panagiotis¹, Athanasios Papatsoris⁴, Aristomenis Gkekas¹

¹Department of Urology, General Hospital of Patras, Greece

²Department of Pathology, General Hospital of Patras, Greece

³Department of Medicine, University of Patras, Greece

⁴Department of Urology, University Hospital of Athens (Sismanoglio), Greece

Abstract

Verrucous carcinoma of the penis is a rare histopathologic variant of squamous cell carcinoma, accounting for less than 10% of the cases of penile cancer. Histopathologically, the tumor is a well differentiated squamous cell carcinoma showing aggressive local growth but never metastasizes, except of cases of mixed type with usual squamous cell carcinoma (hybrid carcinoma). In this paper, we present a case of hybrid penile carcinoma in a 78-year old man, who was treated with partial penectomy. The condition was accompanied with dysplasia of the anterior urethra.

Key words

**Penile carcinoma;
verrucous; hybrid;
anterior urethra;
dysplasia**

Citation

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Introduction

Penile verrucous carcinoma (VC) is a well-differentiated variant of squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) of the penis, accounting for 3-8% of cases of penile cancer, therefore uncommonly reported and not well characterized¹. The pure type of the tumor exhibits invasive local growth but lacks of metastatic potential and distant spread is considered unlikely². However, in a significant proportion of cases the verrucous lesions contain areas of invasive squamous cell carcinoma; these

cases are defined as hybrid carcinoma and tend to behave in a biological manner accordingly to the more aggressive variant³. In this paper, we present the management of a hybrid penile carcinoma which was accompanied with epithelial dysplasia of the anterior of the urethra. The significance of the verrucous variant and the possible role of urethral lesions are discussed.

Case presentation

A 78-year old man presented to our Department with

Corresponding author:

Georgios Tsamboukas, MD, Resident of Urology, Department of Urology, General Hospital of Patras, Patra, 26335,
E-mail: tsampoukasg@gmail.com



Figure 1: During physical examination demonstrated severe phimosis while the penile shaft was palpated solid. Dorsal slit was performed which revealed an exophytic mass originated from the prepuce, affecting glans

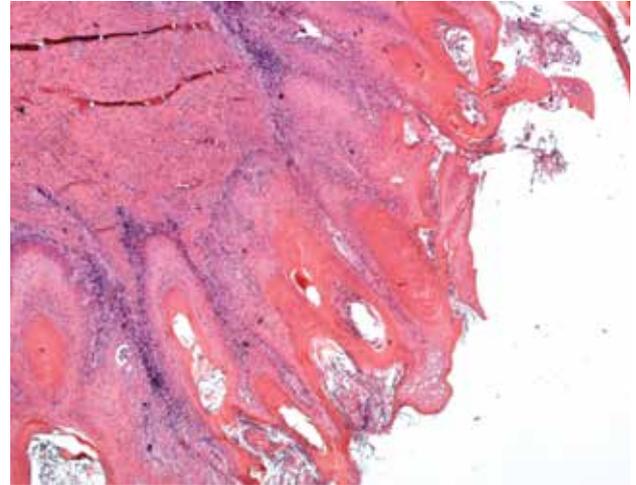


Figure 2: Initial diagnostic biopsy: a lesion indicative of verrucous carcinoma of the penis



Figure 3a: Partial penectomy: The penile shaft was amputated with a 1-cm free tumor margin

Figure 3b: The partial penectomy was completed. A portion of the urethra was utilized for the formation of the "neo-glans"

a painful and gradually swollen penile shaft during the past few weeks. The patient denied comorbidities but he did not exclude possibility of sexually transmitted diseases in the past. Clinical examination revealed phimosis, while the penile shaft was palpated solid, raising high suspicion of underlying pathology. A dorsal slit was performed for the exposure of the glans and an exophytic, cauliflower lesion was revealed, originated from the prepuce. The glans was found also affected (**Figure 1**). Physical examination did not reveal palpable inguinal lymph node disease. Diagnostic, superficial biopsies were taken, which demonstrated an exophytic neoplastic lesion with histopathologic features of a well differentiated squamous cell carcinoma of the infrequent subtype of verrucous carcinoma (**Figure 2**). Despite the moderate biological behavior of the tumor, a partial penectomy was performed a few days later, complying with a 1 cm safety margin due to the palpation of possible infiltrative disease (**Figure 3a**). The distal portion of the urethra was

deployed as a flap for the glanuloplasty (**Figure 3b**). The final pathologic report demonstrated a hybrid penile carcinoma (usual squamous cell and verrucous type) of high differentiation (**Figure 4**). The lamina propria and corpus cavernosa were infiltrated by the lesion, but corpus spongiosum and urethra were unaffected by the tumor. However, multifocal areas of squamous metaplasia (**Figure 5a**) were found in the epithelium of distal urethra; in some areas, dysplasia of the metaplastic epithelium was present (**Figure 5b**). The condition was staged T2NxM0, as physical examination and imaging modalities were negative for inguinal lymph node disease but modified inguinal lymph node dissection for definitive staging purpose was denied by the patient. Considering the level of differentiation of the tumor and the absence of apparent lymph node disease we chose to keep the patient in close follow-up. One year after the procedure, the medical course is uneventful with no signs of recurrence or disease progression.

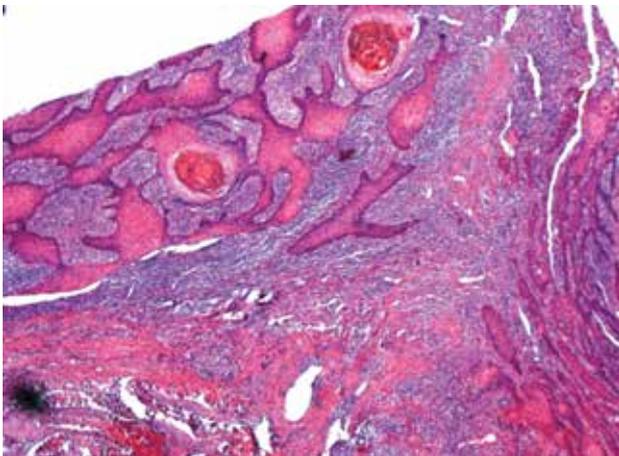


Figure 4: Squamous cell carcinoma of the penis of high differentiation

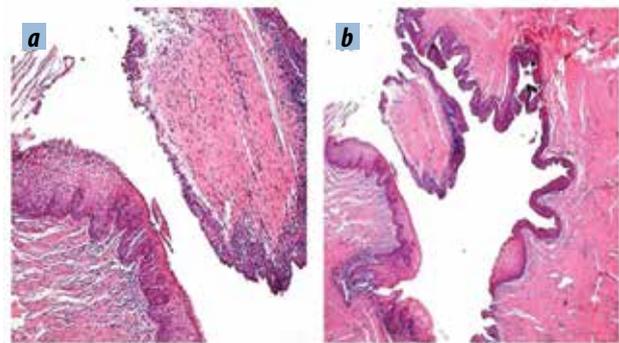


Figure 5a: Areas of squamous metaplasia of urothelium of the distal urethra

Figure 5b: Areas of dysplasia of the urothelium of the distal urethra

Discussion

Verrucous carcinoma belongs to the family of verruciform squamous cell carcinomas having a distinctive exophytic, papillary, cauliflower-like appearance⁴. Other verruciform lesions include warty carcinomas, Buschke-Lowenstein tumor or giant condyloma accuminatum and papillary squamous cell carcinoma². It most commonly affects the glans and may be presented as a painless penile mass or may be infected, ulcerated and purulent⁴. Phimosis, poor hygiene and redundant prepuce are most commonly implicated as risk factors, although the condition has been reported in a 37-year-old previously circumcised man⁵. Histologically, the tumor exhibits well differentiation and locally aggressive growth isolated in the basement membrane of the tumor with rather “pushing” than infiltrating borders; acanthosis and hyperkeratosis are usually present^{1,4}. Thus, in cases of pure VC, the tumor is staged as Ta⁴. Albeit a variant of SCC, verrucous carcinoma does not demonstrate the same immunochemical characteristics and is not considered as an HPV-related tumor². In the minority of cases that HPV infection is found, the high-risk HPV 16 type is absent and therefore, the typical nuclear p16 marker found in usual SCC is not detected². In addition, the expression of a proliferation marker, named Ki67, is characteristically lower in cases of VCC as opposed to SCC, representing the slow growth rate of the tumor².

The diagnosis and treatment of penile cancer is based on initial confirmative biopsies and surgical resection of the primary tumor with as optimal organ preservation as possible³. In cases of pure VC, circum-

cision, local excision or partial penectomy is considered an adequate approach as far as the tumor lacks of spreading potential and never metastasizes^{1,4}. The intra-Aortic infusion chemotherapy based on methotrexate has been reported as an alternative non-surgical approach for younger men with attractive effectiveness regarding oncologic, cosmetic and functional outcomes; however, several cycles of chemotherapy may be needed for complete response and the initial diagnosis of VC has to be certain⁶. In cases of small lesions, cryosurgery with liquid nitrogen can offer organ preservation without significant risk of recurrence⁷. On the other hand, if an hybrid carcinoma is the definitive diagnosis, the tumor should be regarded as a mixed SCC and must be managed accordingly; inguinal lymph node metastasis should be considered in up to 25% of patients with clinically negative lymph nodes and all patients in the high risk group (T2-T4) should undergo diagnostic procedures for final staging and if indicated, further treatment³.

The presence of urethral lesions concurrently with penile cancer is not uncommon according to observation of penectomy specimens⁸. In their study, Velasquez et al. have observed specific abnormalities in the epithelium of anterior urethra in men with penile cancer, consisting mainly of squamous metaplasia. These lesions were in their majority primary, most likely related to chronic obstruction and inflammation due to the presence of phimosis or cancer and not due to direct extension of the tumor⁸. The authors concluded that further keratinization or atypia in these lesions, found in higher frequency with VC, may rep-

represent a mechanical pathway for cancer progression or an independent field susceptible to contemporary cancer transformation⁸. Indeed, primary urethral cancer in distal urethra is of squamous cell carcinoma origin and therefore, attentive tracking of these lesions is mandatory⁹.

In our case, initial diagnostic biopsies demonstrated the presence only of VC, reflecting the superficial penetrating strength of the subtype. The decision for partial amputation was guided by clinical examination and deemed justified since the pathologic examination of deeper layers revealed invasive foci of usual type SCC, a finding that can dramatically change the natural history of the disease and definitely alternate the management of the condition. Therefore, we believe that even if VC is found isolated in initial biopsies,

the urologist should keep in mind the possibility of a mixed, more aggressive underlying pathology. Finally, the urethral epithelial lesions, albeit of undocumented significance, could not but alert the surgical team to track the patient in close follow-up, especially in cases where distal urethra is utilized as part of the reconstruction procedure. 

Conflicts of interest

The author declared no conflict of interest.

Abbreviations

VC: Verrucous Carcinoma

SCC: Squamous cell carcinoma

HPV: Human papillomatous virus

Περίληψη

Το ακροχορδονώδες καρκίνωμα (ΑΧΚ) του πέους είναι μια σπάνια ιστοπαθολογική παραλλαγή του πλακώδους καρκινώματος (ΠΚ), που ευθύνεται για λιγότερο του 10% των περιπτώσεων πείκου καρκίνου. Ιστοπαθολογικά, ο όγκος είναι ένα καλά διαφοροποιημένο ΠΚ, που παρουσιάζει επιθετική τοπική ανάπτυξη αλλά δεν μεθίσταται ποτέ, εκτός των περιπτώσεων του μικτού τύπου με το πλακώδες καρκίνωμα (υβριδικό καρκίνωμα). Σε αυτή την εργασία, παρουσιάζουμε μια περίπτωση υβριδικού καρκινώματος σε έναν 78χρονο άνδρα, ο οποίος αντιμετωπίστηκε με μερική πενεκτομή. Η πάθηση συνοδευόταν από δυσπλασία της πρόσθιας ουρήθρας.



Λέξεις ευρετηριασμού

**Πείκο καρκίνωμα,
ακροχορδονώδες,
υβριδικό, πρόσθια
ουρήθρας, δυσπλασία**

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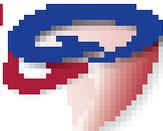


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DUODART 
Αντιόξινο, αντιόξινο, αντιόξινο

Παρασκευάζονται σύμφωνα με τις οδηγίες του κατασκευαστή (GSK) και περιέχουν
αλβουρίνη, pH-5.6 ή φάρμακα αντιόξινα, αντιόξινα, αντιόξινα

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Διαταραχές του ήπατος και των χοληφόρων			
Διαταραχές ήπατος		Μη γνωστές*	
Μη φυσιολογικές τιμές σε δοκιμασίες ηπατικής λειτουργίας		Μη γνωστές*	
Διαταραχές του δέρματος και του υποδόριου ιστού			
Κνησμός	Όχι συχνός	Σπάνιος*	Όχι συχνός
Ερυθρότητα	Όχι συχνός	Σπάνιος*	Όχι συχνός
Εξάνθημα	Σπάνιος*	Σπάνιος*	Όχι συχνός
Κνίδωση	Πολύ σπάνιος*	Πολύ σπάνιος*	Όχι συχνός
Αγγειοοίδημα	Πολύ σπάνιος*	Σπάνιος*	Σπάνιος*
Τένιον Στενός-Ιχθυόση	Πολύ σπάνιος*	Πολύ σπάνιος*	Πολύ σπάνιος*
Πολυμορφο ερύθημα	Πολύ σπάνιος*	Μη γνωστές*	Μη γνωστές*
Αποφύγινη δερματίτιδα	Μη γνωστές*	Μη γνωστές*	Μη γνωστές*
Διαταραχές του μασοκλεκτικού συστήματος και του συνδετικού ιστού			
Μυϊκή αδυναμία		Μη γνωστές*	
Διαταραχές των νεφρών και των ουροφόρων οδών			
Επίσπαση ούρων***	Όχι συχνός	Σπάνιος*	
Δυσκολία στην ούρηση		Όχι συχνός	
Νευρική δυσλειτουργία		Μη γνωστές*	
Διαταραχές του αναπνευστικού συστήματος και του μαστού			
Διαταραχές αναπνευστικής συμπεριλαμβανομένων πνευμονικών παθήσεων και αποτυχία αναπνευστικού	Συχνός		Συχνός
Πνευμονία			Πολύ σπάνιος
Γενικές διαταραχές και καταστάσεις της οδού χορήγησης			
Κόπωση	Συχνός	Όχι συχνός	
Πυρετωδή σύνδρομα		Όχι συχνός	
Εξοσθηκτικές		Όχι συχνός	

#: Οι ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες από τη χορήγηση ολαμενοσίνης και ταμοσουλίνης που περιλαμβάνονται σε αυτό τον πίνακα είναι οι απειθήμετες ενέργειες που παρατίθενται στην «Περιγραφή των Χαρακτηριστικών του Προϊόντος» και των δύο προϊόντων. **: Από αναφορές μετά την κυκλοφορία του φαρμάκου. Επειδή αυτό τα αυξημένα καταγεγραμμένα συμβατικά είναι από την ποσότητα ημερήσια μετά την κυκλοφορία, η συχνότητα των συμβαμάτων και ο ρόλος της ολαμενοσίνης ή ταμοσουλίνης και η αιτιολογία ανόρθωσή τους δεν μπορεί να εκτιμηθούν με αξιοπιστία. ***: Από αναφορές μετά την κυκλοφορία του φαρμάκου, παρατηρήθηκε κατά τη διάρκεια της χειρουργικής επέμβασης καταρραχία και γλυκαιμία. ****: Βλέπε παράγραφο 4.4 Ειδικοί προειδοποιητικοί και προφυλακτικοί κατά τη χρήση. Μικροβιοδότηση ασφαλείας του Vesomii: Το προϊόν των ανεπιθύμητων επιδράσεων που παρατηρήθηκαν με τη θεραπεία έως 1 χρόνο ήταν παρόμοιο με αυτό που παρατηρήθηκε στις μελέτες διάρκειας 12 εβδομάδων. Το προϊόν είναι καλά ανεκτό και δεν έχουν αναφερθεί ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες με τη μακροχρόνια χρήση. Περιγραφή των ανεπιθύμητων επιδράσεων των ουροφόρων οδών: Για επίσπαση ούρων βλέπε παράγραφο 4.4 Ειδικοί προειδοποιητικοί και προφυλακτικοί κατά τη χρήση. Ηλικωμένοι: Η θεραπευτική δόση της Vesomii, μέχρι έως σοβαρά συστήματα αποθήκευσης (επιτακτώμενη, συχνότητα) και ούρηση σχετίζονται με καλή ή υπεραστική του προστάτη (BPH), είναι μια νόσος που επηρεάζει τους ηλικιωμένους άνδρες. Η κλινική ανάλυση της Vesomii έχει πραγματοποιηθεί σε ασθενείς 45-91 ετών, με μέσο όρο ηλικίας 65 ετών. Οι ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες στον ηλικιωμένο πληθυσμό ήταν παρόμοιες με το νεότερο σε ηλικία πληθυσμό. Αναφορά πιθανολογούμενων ανεπιθύμητων ενεργειών: Η αναφορά πιθανολογούμενων ανεπιθύμητων ενεργειών μετά από τη χορήγηση ολαμενοσίνης, του φαρμακευτικού προϊόντος είναι σημαντική. Επιπλέον η συνεχή παρακολούθηση της σχέσης οφέλους-κινδύνου του φαρμακευτικού προϊόντος. Ζητείται από τους επαγγελματίες του τομέα της υγείας να αναφέρουν οποιαδήποτε πιθανολογούμενες ανεπιθύμητες ενέργειες μέσω: Ελλάδα, Εθνικός Οργανισμός Φαρμάκων, Μεσογείων 284, GR-15562 Χαλκίδας, Αθήνα, Τηλ: +30 21 32040380/337, Φαξ: +30 21 06549585, Ιστοσελίδα: <http://www.efpa.gr>. 4.9 Υπερδοσολογία: Συμπτώματα: Η υπερδοσολογία με συνδυασμό ολαμενοσίνης και ταμοσουλίνης μπορεί διευκολυνθεί να οδήγησει σε σοβαρές αντανακλαστικές επιδράσεις καθώς και οξεία υπόταση. Η μέγιστη δόση που ελήφθη τυχαία κατά τη διάρκεια μιας κλινικής μελέτης αντιστοιχούσε σε 126 mg ηλεκτρικής ολαμενοσίνης και 5,6 mg υδροχλωρικής ταμοσουλίνης. Αυτή η δόση ήταν κατώτερη με ήμισυ ή περισσότερο για 16 ημέρες ως η μέση ανεπιθύμητη ανεπιθύμητη ενέργεια. Θεραπεία: Σε περίπτωση υπερδοσολογίας με ολαμενοσίνη και ταμοσουλίνη, πρέπει να χορηγηθεί ενεργός άνθρακας. Πρωινή πύλη είναι χρήσιμη εάν εκτελείται μόνο σε 1 ώρα, αλλά δεν πρέπει να προκαλείται έμετος. Όπως με τα άλλα αντιοιδηματικά, τα συμπτώματα της υπερδοσολογίας λόγω του συστατικού ολαμενοσίνης μπορούν να αντιμετωπιστούν ως αλλεργικές. -Σοβαρές κεντρικές αντιοιδηματικές επιδράσεις όπως παρασάθεσης ή έντονη διέγερση: αντιμετώπιση με φυσιοθεραπεία ή καθαρική. -Σπασμοί ή έντονη διέγερση: αντιμετώπιση με βενζοδιαζεπίνες. -Αναπνευστική ανεπάρκεια: αντιμετώπιση με μηχανική αναπνοή. -Ταχυκαρδία: αντιμετώπιση ανάλογα με το σημείωμα, σε χαμηλά, σε χαμηλά. Οι βήτα-αναστολείς πρέπει να χρησιμοποιούνται με προσοχή, δεδομένου ότι η ταυτόχρονη υπερδοσολογία με ταμοσουλίνη θα μπορούσε να προκαλέσει διπλάσια οξεία υπόταση. - Επίσπαση ούρων: αντιμετώπιση με καθημερινά. Όπως και με άλλα αντιοιδηματικά φάρμακα, σε περίπτωση υπερδοσολογίας, ιδιαίτερη προσοχή πρέπει να δοθεί σε ασθενείς με γνωστό κίνδυνο παράδοσης του διαστήματος QT ή, υπεραστική, βρογχίτιδα και ταυτόχρονη χρήση φαρμακευτικών προϊόντων που είναι γνωστό ότι παρατείνουν το διάστημα QT και σχετικά προλαμβάνουν καρδιακές νόσους (π.χ., ισχαιμία του μυοκαρδίου, αρρυθμία, συμφορητική καρδιακή ανεπάρκεια). Οξεία υπόταση, η οποία μπορεί να συμβεί μετά από υπερδοσολογία λόγω του συστατικού ταμοσουλίνης, πρέπει να αντιμετωπίζεται συμπτωματικά. Αποβολή είναι απόλυτα να προσφέρει βοήθεια, εφόσον η ταμοσουλίνη είναι σε πολύ μεγάλο βαθμό ανεπιθύμητη ως τις πρωτεΐνες του πλάσματος. 5. ΦΑΡΜΑΚΟΔΥΝΑΜΙΚΕΣ ΙΔΙΟΤΗΤΕΣ: 5.1 Φαρμακοδυναμικές ιδιότητες: Ομοιομορφική κατηγορία: αναστολέτες των α-αδρενεργικών υποδοχέων. Κωδικός AIC: G04CA53. Μηχανισμός δράσης: Το Vesomii είναι ένα δικασίο συνδυασμό στεφανίων δόσεων που περιέχει δύο δραστικές ουσίες, ολαμενοσίνη και ταμοσουλίνη. Τα φάρμακα αυτά έχουν ανεξάρτητες και συμπληρωματικές μηχανισμούς δράσης στη θρομβία των συμπτωμάτων από το καλύτερο ομοιομορφικό (LUTS) που σχετίζονται με καλή ή υπεραστική του προστάτη (BPH) και με συμπτωματα αποθήκευσης. Η ολαμενοσίνη είναι ένας ανταγωνιστικός και εκλεκτικός ανταγωνιστής των μωσαρικών υποδοχέων και δεν έχει σχετική συγγένεια με διάφορους άλλους υποδοχείς, ένζυμα και με τους δραστικούς ιστόν που ελέγχονται. Η ολαμενοσίνη έχει την υψηλότερη συγγένεια με τους μωσαρικούς M3-υποδοχείς, ακολουθούμενη από εκείνη με τους μωσαρικούς M1- και M2-υποδοχείς. Η ταμοσουλίνη είναι ένας ανταγωνιστής των α1-αδρενεργικών υποδοχέων (AR). Συνδέεται εκλεκτικά και ανταγωνιστικά με τους μετανοσπαστικούς α1-αδρενεργικούς υποδοχείς, ειδικότερα στους υποτύπους α1A και α1D και είναι ένας ισχυρός ανταγωνιστής των ιστών του καλύτερου ομοιομορφικού συστήματος. Φαρμακοδυναμικές επιδράσεις: Το δικασίο Vesomii αποτελείται από δύο δραστικές ουσίες με ανεξάρτητες και συμπληρωματικές επιδράσεις στα συμπτώματα από το καλύτερο ομοιομορφικό (LUTS) που σχετίζονται με καλή ή υπεραστική του προστάτη (BPH) και με συμπτωματα αποθήκευσης. Η ολαμενοσίνη βελτιώνει πρόβλημα στη λειτουργία της αποθήκευσης που σχετίζονται με μη-νευρικούς ενεργοποιημένους M3-υποδοχείς της ελκείνης ακετυλοχολίνης στην κιάση. Η μη νευρική ελεύθερη ακετυλοχολίνη ενισχύει την αυθόρμητη οσθητήρια λειτουργία και εκδηλώνεται ως έπληξη για ούρηση και συχνότητα. Η ταμοσουλίνη βελτιώνει τα συμπτώματα ούρησης (αυξάνει τον μέγιστο ρυθμό ροής ούρων), ανακουφίζοντας την απόρριψη μέσω χαλάρωσης του λείου μύος στον προστάτη, του σάγματος της κιάσης και της ουρήθρας. Επίσης, βελτιώνει τα συμπτώματα αποθήκευσης. Κλινική αποτελεσματικότητα και ασφάλεια: Η αποτελεσματικότητα αποδείχθηκε σε μια πλάση μελέτη φάσης 3 σε ασθενείς με συμπτώματα από το καλύτερο ομοιομορφικό (LUTS) που σχετίζονται με καλή ή υπεραστική του προστάτη (BPH) και με συμπτώματα ούρησης (αποφοροτικό) και που βρέθηκαν ταυτόχρονα στο επόμενο επίπεδο συμπτωμάτων αποθήκευσης (επιπτώσεις: > 8 ουρήσεις ανά 24 ώρες και > 2 επεισόδια επιτακτικότητας ανά 24 ώρες). Το Vesomii έδειξε στατιστικά σημαντικές βελτιώσεις από την αρχή έως το τέλος της μελέτης σε σύγκριση με το εικονικό φάρμακο σε δύο κύρια τελικά σημεία, το συνολικό International Prostate Symptom Score (IPSS) και το Total Urgency and Frequency Score, και στα δευτερεύοντα τελικά σημεία της επιτακτικότητας, της συχνότητας ούρησης, του μέσου αποβαλλόμενου όγκου ούρων ανά ούρηση, της νυκτοουρίας, στην επίσημη βαθμολογία του IPSS ούρησης, στην επίσημη βαθμολογία του IPSS αποθήκευσης, στο IPSS ποιότητας ζωής (QoL), στη βαθμολογία Inactive Bladder questionnaire (OAB-q) και στη βαθμολογία OAB-q Health Related Quality of Life (HRQL), συμπεριλαμβανομένων όλων των επιμέρους βαθμολογιών (την απεικόνιση, την ανόρθωση, τον όγκο και την κοινωνικότητα). Το Vesomii έδειξε μεγαλύτερη βελτίωση συγκριμένο με το δικασίο ταμοσουλίνης (Omnis Tocal) στη συνολική βαθμολογία επιτακτικότητας και συχνότητας ούρησης (Total Urgency and Frequency Score), καθώς και στη συχνότητα ούρησης, στο μέσο αποβαλλόμενο όγκο ούρων ανά ούρηση και στην επίσημη βαθμολογία του IPSS αποθήκευσης. Αυτό συνοδεύεται από σημαντικές βελτιώσεις στα IPSS QoL και στη συνολική βαθμολογία περιλαμβανομένων όλων των υποβαθμολογιών των OAB-Q/HRQL. Επιπλέον, το Vesomii ήταν μη καλύτερο των δικαίων ταμοσουλίνης (Omnis Tocal) επί του συνόλου IPSS (p < 0,001), όπως σημειώνεται. 5.2 Φαρμακοκινητικές ιδιότητες: Vesomii: Οι παρακάτω πληροφορίες παρουσιάζουν τις φαρμακοκινητικές παραμέτρους μετά από πολλαπλές δόσεις Vesomii. Με πολλαπλή δόση σε σχετικά μελέτη βιοδιαθεσιμότητας, έδειξε ότι η χορήγηση του Vesomii έχει ως αποτέλεσμα ανάλογη έκθεση με εκείνη της συγχρηγής των ξεχωριστών δικαίων ολαμενοσίνης και ταμοσουλίνης (Omnis Tocal) της ίδιας δόσης. Αναφορές: Μετά από πολλαπλές δόσεις Vesomii, ο tmax της ολαμενοσίνης κυμάνθηκε μεταξύ 4,27 ώρες και 4,76 ώρες σε διαφορετικές μελέτες, ο tmax της ταμοσουλίνης κυμάνθηκε μεταξύ 3,47 ώρες και 5,65 ώρες. Οι αντίστοιχες τιμές Cmax της ολαμενοσίνης κυμάνθηκαν μεταξύ 26,5 ng/mL και 32,0 ng/mL, ενώ η Cmax της ταμοσουλίνης κυμάνθηκε μεταξύ 6,56 ng/mL και 13,3 ng/mL. Οι τιμές AUC της ολαμενοσίνης κυμάνθηκαν μεταξύ 528 ng·h/mL και 601 ng·h/mL, και της ταμοσουλίνης μεταξύ 97,1 ng·h/mL και 222 ng·h/mL. Η απόλυτη βιοδιαθεσιμότητα της ολαμενοσίνης είναι περίπου 90%, ενώ για την ταμοσουλίνη υπολογίζεται να απορροφάται το 70% έως 79%.

Σε μία μελέτη για την επίδραση της τροφής που χορηγήθηκε εφάπαξ δόση Vesomii υπό συνθήκες νηστείας, μετά από ένα υψηλής περιεκτικότητας σε λιπαρά και χαμηλής θερμιδικής αξίας πρωινό και μετά από ένα υψηλής περιεκτικότητας σε λιπαρά και υψηλής θερμιδικής αξίας πρωινό. Μετά από ένα υψηλής περιεκτικότητας σε λιπαρά και υψηλής θερμιδικής αξίας πρωινό, παρατηρήθηκε μία αύξηση 54% στη Cmax για το συστατικό ταμοσουλίνη του Vesomii σε σύγκριση με την κατάσταση νηστείας, ενώ η AUC αυξήθηκε κατά 33%. Μια υψηλής περιεκτικότητας σε λιπαρά και χαμηλής θερμιδικής αξίας πρωινό δεν επηρέασε τη φαρμακοκινητική της ταμοσουλίνης. Οι φαρμακοκινητικές ιδιότητες του συστατικού ολαμενοσίνης δεν επηρεάστηκαν ούτε από ένα υψηλής περιεκτικότητας σε λιπαρά και χαμηλής θερμιδικής αξίας πρωινό, ούτε από ένα υψηλής περιεκτικότητας σε λιπαρά και υψηλής θερμιδικής αξίας πρωινό. Η ταυτόχρονη χορήγηση ολαμενοσίνης και δικαίων ταμοσουλίνης (Omnis Tocal) οδήγησε σε αύξηση 1,19-φορές της Cmax και σε αύξηση 1,24-φορές της AUC της ταμοσουλίνης σε σύγκριση με την AUC των δικαίων ταμοσουλίνης (Omnis Tocal) όταν χορηγήθηκαν ξεχωριστά. Δεν υπήρξε κενό έδαφος για την ούρηση της ταμοσουλίνης στη φαρμακοκινητική της ολαμενοσίνης. Αποβολή: Μετά από μια εφάπαξ χορήγηση Vesomii, ο t1/2 της ολαμενοσίνης κυμάνθηκε από 49,5 ώρες σε 53,0 ώρες και ο t1/2 της ταμοσουλίνης από 12,8 ώρες σε 14,0 ώρες. Πολλαπλές δόσεις (επιπτώσεις 240 mg q.d. συγχρηγής) του Vesomii με αποτέλεσμα μια αύξηση 60% στη Cmax και 63% στην AUC για τη ταμοσουλίνη ή Cmax αυξήθηκε κατά 115% και η AUC κατά 122%. Οι αλλαγές στη Cmax και την AUC δεν θεωρούνται κλινικά σημαντικές. Πληθυσμιακή φαρμακοκινητική ανάλυση των δεδομένων της φάσης 3 έδειξε ότι η διακύμανση με το ίδιο σημείο της φαρμακοκινητικής της ταμοσουλίνης σχετίζεται με τις διαφορές στην ηλικία, το ύψος και τις συγκεντρώσεις της α1-οξείνης γλυκοπρωτεΐνης στο πλάσμα. Μια αύξηση στην ηλικία και την α1-οξείνη γλυκοπρωτεΐνη συσχέτισε με μία αύξηση στην AUC, ενώ μια αύξηση στο ύψος συσχέτισε με μία μείωση στην AUC. Οι ίδιοι παράγοντες οδήγησαν σε παρόμοιες αλλαγές στη φαρμακοκινητική της ολαμενοσίνης. Επιπλέον, οι αλλαγές στην γ-γλουταμυνοτρανσφεράση σχετίζονται με υψηλότερες τιμές AUC. Αυτές οι αλλαγές στην AUC δεν θεωρούνται κλινικά σημαντικές. Οι πληροφορίες από τις επιμέρους δραστικές ουσίες που χρησιμοποιούνται ως ενιαίο ανάστημα προϊόντων, αποκλύβαν τις φαρμακοκινητικές ιδιότητες του Vesomii: Σημειώσεις: Απαγόρευση: Για το δικασίο ολαμενοσίνης, ο tmax είναι ανεξάρτητος από τη δόση και εμφανίζεται 3 έως 8 ώρες μετά από πολλαπλές δόσεις. Η αύξηση των Cmax και AUC σε ανάλογη με τη δόση κυμαίνεται μεταξύ 5 έως 40 mg. Η απόλυτη βιοδιαθεσιμότητα είναι περίπου 90%. Κατανάλωση: Ο φαρμακικός όγκος κατανάλωσης της ολαμενοσίνης μετά από ενδοφλέβια χορήγηση είναι περίπου 600 L. Περίπου το 98% της ολαμενοσίνης δεσμεύεται στις πρωτεΐνες του πλάσματος, κυρίως με την α1-οξείνη γλυκοπρωτεΐνη. Διαμετασχηματισμός: Η ολαμενοσίνη έχει χαμηλό φαινόμενο πρώτης διόδου, εφόσον μεταβολίζεται αργά. Η ολαμενοσίνη μεταβολίζεται εκτενώς από το ήπαρ, κυρίως από το CYP3A4. Δεδομένα, υπάρχουν ενδοκυτταρικές μεταβολικές οδοί που μπορούν να συμβάλουν στον μεταβολισμό της ολαμενοσίνης. Η συστηματική κλινική της ολαμενοσίνης είναι περίπου 9,5 L/h. Κατά τη διάρκεια της απόδοσης χορήγησης της δόσης (ένος φαρμακολογικά δραστικής μεταβολίτης (4R-υδροξυ ολαμενοσίνης) και τρεις ανενεργές μεταβολίτες (N-γλυκοουροσίου, N-οξείδιο και 4R-υδροξυ-N-οξείδιο της ολαμενοσίνης) έχουν υποστηρίξει στο πλάσμα εκτός από τη ολαμενοσίνη. Αποβολή: Μετά από εφάπαξ χορήγηση 10 mg [14C-επισημασμένη] ολαμενοσίνης, περίπου το 70% της ραδιοετικετασμένης στα ούρα και το 23% στο κόπρανα, σε διάστημα 26 ημερών. Στα ούρα, περίπου το 11% της ραδιοετικετασμένης ανακτάται ως ανεπιθύμητη δραστική ουσία, περίπου το 18% ως N-οξείδιο μεταβολίτη, το 9% ως 4R-υδροξυ-N-οξείδιο μεταβολίτη και το 8% ως 4R-υδροξυ μεταβολίτη (ενεργός μεταβολίτης). Σημειώσεις: Για δικασίο ταμοσουλίνης (Omnis Tocal), ο tmax επιτακτικότητας 4 έως 6 ώρες μετά από πολλαπλές δόσεις των 0,4 mg/ημέρα. Οι Cmax και AUC αυξήθηκαν ανάλογα με τη δόση μεταξύ 0,4 και 1,2 mg. Η απόλυτη βιοδιαθεσιμότητα υπολογίζεται ότι είναι περίπου 57%. Κατανάλωση: Ο όγκος κατανάλωσης της ταμοσουλίνης μετά από ενδοφλέβια χορήγηση είναι περίπου 16 L. Περίπου το 99% της ταμοσουλίνης δεσμεύεται με τις πρωτεΐνες του πλάσματος, κυρίως με την α1-οξείνη γλυκοπρωτεΐνη. Διαμετασχηματισμός: Η ταμοσουλίνη έχει χαμηλό φαινόμενο πρώτης διόδου, εφόσον μεταβολίζεται αργά. Η ταμοσουλίνη μεταβολίζεται εκτενώς από το ήπαρ, κυρίως από το CYP3A4 και CYP2D6. Η συστηματική κλινική της ταμοσουλίνης είναι περίπου 2,9 L/h. Η περισσότερη ταμοσουλίνη είναι παρούσα στο πλάσμα, με τη μορφή αμετάβλητης δραστικής ουσίας. Κανένα από τους μεταβολίτες δεν ήταν περισσότερο ενεργός από το αρχικό συστατικό. Αποβολή: Μετά από μία εφάπαξ δόση 0,2 mg [14C-επισημασμένη] ταμοσουλίνης, μετά από 1 εβδομάδα περίπου το 76% της ραδιοετικετασμένης ανακτάται στα ούρα και το 21% στο κόπρανα. Στα ούρα, περίπου το 9% της ραδιοετικετασμένης ανεπιθύμητη ως ανεπιθύμητη ταμοσουλίνη, περίπου το 16% ως βιολογική της α-αποβιταμίνης ταμοσουλίνης, και το 8% ως α-αποβιταμίνης οξεία οξύ. Χαρακτηριστικά σε συγκεκριμένες ομάδες ασθενών: Ηλικωμένοι: Σε κλινικές φαρμακοκινητικές και βιοφάρμακοκινητικές μελέτες, η ηλικία των ασθενών κυμαίνεται μεταξύ 19 και 79 ετών. Μετά τη χορήγηση του Vesomii, οι υψηλότερες μέσες τιμές έκθεσης βρέθηκαν σε ηλικιωμένους άνδρες, αν και υπήρξε μια σχεδόν πλήρης επικάλυψη με μεμονωμένες τιμές που βρέθηκαν σε νεότερο άτομα. Από επιβεβαιωμένες από τη πληθυσμιακή δεδομένα της φαρμακοκινητικής ανάλυσης στη φάση 2 και 3, το Vesomii μπορεί να χρησιμοποιηθεί σε ηλικιωμένους ασθενείς. Μηχανισμός δράσης: Vesomii: Το Vesomii μπορεί να χρησιμοποιηθεί σε ασθενείς με ήπια έως μέτρια νεφρική δυσλειτουργία, αλλά πρέπει να χρησιμοποιείται με προσοχή σε ασθενείς με σοβαρή νεφρική δυσλειτουργία. Η φαρμακοκινητική του Vesomii δεν έχει μελετηθεί σε ασθενείς με νεφρική δυσλειτουργία. Οι παρακάτω αναφορές αναπτύχθηκαν τις διαθέσιμες πληροφορίες των μεμονωμένων συστατικών σχετικά με τη νεφρική δυσλειτουργία. Σημειώσεις: Οι AUC και Cmax της ολαμενοσίνης σε ασθενείς με ήπια ή μέτρια νεφρική δυσλειτουργία δεν ήταν σημαντικά διαφορετικές από αυτές των υγιών εθελοντών. Σε ασθενείς με σοβαρή νεφρική δυσλειτουργία (κλινική κρεατινίνη < 30 mL/min), η έκθεση σε ολαμενοσίνη ήταν σημαντικά μεγαλύτερη από ό, τι στους εθελοντές, με αυξήσεις στη Cmax της τάξης του 30%, στην AUC πάνω από 100% και στον t1/2 πάνω από 60%. Με στατιστικά σημαντική σχέση παρατηρήθηκε ανάμεσα στην κλινική και στην κλινική και στην κλινική της ολαμενοσίνης. Η φαρμακοκινητική σε ασθενείς που υποβάλλονται σε αιμοκάθαρση δεν έχει μελετηθεί. Σημειώσεις: Η φαρμακοκινητική της ταμοσουλίνης έχει συγκριθεί σε 6 ασθενείς με ήπια έως μέτρια (30 < CrCl < 70 mL/min/1,73 m2) ή σοβαρή (< 30 mL/min/1,73 m2) νεφρική δυσλειτουργία και σε 6 υγιή άτομα (CrCl > 90 mL/min/1,73 m2). Ενώ μια αλλαγή στη συνολική συγκέντρωση της ταμοσουλίνης στο πλάσμα παρατηρήθηκε ως αποτέλεσμα της μεταβολόμενης δόσεων με την α1-οξείνη γλυκοπρωτεΐνη, η συγκέντρωση της μη δεσμευμένης υδροχλωρικής ταμοσουλίνης (δραστική), καθώς και η εγγενής κλινική, παρέμειναν σχετικά σταθερές. Ασθενείς με νεφροπάθεια τελικού στάδίου (CrCl < 10 mL/min/1,73 m2) δεν έχουν μελετηθεί. Αιματική δυσλειτουργία: Vesomii: Το Vesomii μπορεί να χρησιμοποιηθεί σε ασθενείς με ήπια έως μέτρια ηπατική δυσλειτουργία, αλλά αντενδείκνυται σε ασθενείς με σοβαρή ηπατική δυσλειτουργία. Η φαρμακοκινητική του Vesomii δεν έχει μελετηθεί σε ασθενείς με ηπατική δυσλειτουργία. Οι παρακάτω αναφορές αναπτύχθηκαν τις διαθέσιμες πληροφορίες των μεμονωμένων συστατικών σχετικά με την ηπατική δυσλειτουργία. Σημειώσεις: Σε ασθενείς με μέτρια ηπατική δυσλειτουργία (βαθμολογία Child-Pugh 7 έως 9), η Cmax δεν επηρεάστηκε, η AUC αυξήθηκε κατά 60% και ο t1/2 διπλασιάστηκε. Η φαρμακοκινητική της ολαμενοσίνης σε ασθενείς με σοβαρή ηπατική δυσλειτουργία δεν έχει μελετηθεί. Σημειώσεις: Η φαρμακοκινητική της ταμοσουλίνης έχει συγκριθεί σε 8 άτομα με μέτρια ηπατική δυσλειτουργία (βαθμολογία Child-Pugh 7 έως 9) και σε 8 υγιή εθελοντές. Ενώ παρατηρήθηκε μια αλλαγή στη συνολική συγκέντρωση της ταμοσουλίνης στο πλάσμα ως αποτέλεσμα της μεταβολόμενης δόσεων με την α1-οξείνη γλυκοπρωτεΐνη, η συγκέντρωση της μη δεσμευμένης ταμοσουλίνης (δραστική) δεν μεταβλήθηκε σημαντικά με μόνο μια μέτρια (32%) αλλαγή στην εγγενή κλινική της μη δεσμευμένης ταμοσουλίνης. Η ταμοσουλίνη δεν έχει μελετηθεί σε ασθενείς με σοβαρή ηπατική δυσλειτουργία. 5.3 Προκλινικά δεδομένα για την ασφάλεια: Μη-κλινικές μελέτες δεν έχουν διεξαχθεί με Vesomii. Οι δραστικές ουσίες, ολαμενοσίνη και ταμοσουλίνη έχουν αξιολογηθεί εκτενώς ξεχωριστά σε δοκιμές τοξικότητας σε ζώα και τα αποτελέσματα ήταν σύμφωνα με τις γνωστές φαρμακολογικές δράσεις. Το μη κλινικό δεδομένο δεν αποκάλυψε κανένα νέο κίνδυνο για τον άνθρωπο με βάση τις συμβατικές μελέτες φαρμακολογικής ασφαλείας, τοξικότητας επανολαμινόμενων δόσεων, γενετικής, εμβρυϊκής ανάπτυξης, γονοτοξικότητας και ενδομήτριας καρδιαγγειακής δράσης και δεν εφείροντο παραγωγή για την επίδραση ή τη συνένωση των ανεπιθύμητων ενεργειών όταν η ολαμενοσίνη και η ταμοσουλίνη χορηγούνται σε συνδυασμό. 6. ΦΑΡΜΑΚΕΥΤΙΚΕΣ ΠΑΡΗΦΟΡΙΕΣ: 6.1 Κατάλληλος εκδόχων: Μαννιτόλη (E421), Μαλτοζή, Πολυυδαθιλικό οξύ 7.000.000, Πολυαθθενολικό 8000, Μαγνήσιο, στεπατικό (E470b), Βουτυλοφωσφορικό οξύ (E321), Καλλοσολόνη άνυδρο οξείδιο του μαργαίου (E551), Υδρομετάνη (E464), Οξείδιο του οξέως ερυθρό (E172). 6.2 Ασυμβατότητες: Δεν εφαρμόζεται. 6.3 Διάρκεια ζωής: 3 χρόνια. 6.4 Ιδιαιτέρως προφυλακτικές κατά τη φύλαξη του προϊόντος: Το φαρμακευτικό προϊόν δεν αποτελεί ιδιαίτερες συνθήκες φύλαξης. 6.5 Φύση και συστατικά του περιέκτη: Συσκευασίες με κενές αλουμινοειδείς ποταμάρες 10, 14, 20, 28, 30, 50, 56, 60, 100 ή 200 δόσεις. Μπορεί να μη κυκλοφορούν όλες οι συσκευασίες. 6.6 Ιδιαιτέρως προφυλακτικές απόρριψης: Κάθε εγγραμμένο φάρμακο πρέπει να απορριπτεί σύμφωνα με τις κατά τόπους ισχύουσες σχετικές διατάξεις. 7. ΚΑΤΟΧΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΑΔΕΙΑΣ ΚΥΚΛΟΦΟΡΙΑΣ: Astellas Pharmaceuticals AEBE, Αργυρούλα 6-8, 151 23 Μαρούσι, Αθήνα - Ελλάδα, Τηλ.: 210 8189900. 8. ΑΡΙΘΜΟΣ(ΟΙ) ΑΔΕΙΑΣ ΚΥΚΛΟΦΟΡΙΑΣ: 50321/11-6-2014. 9. 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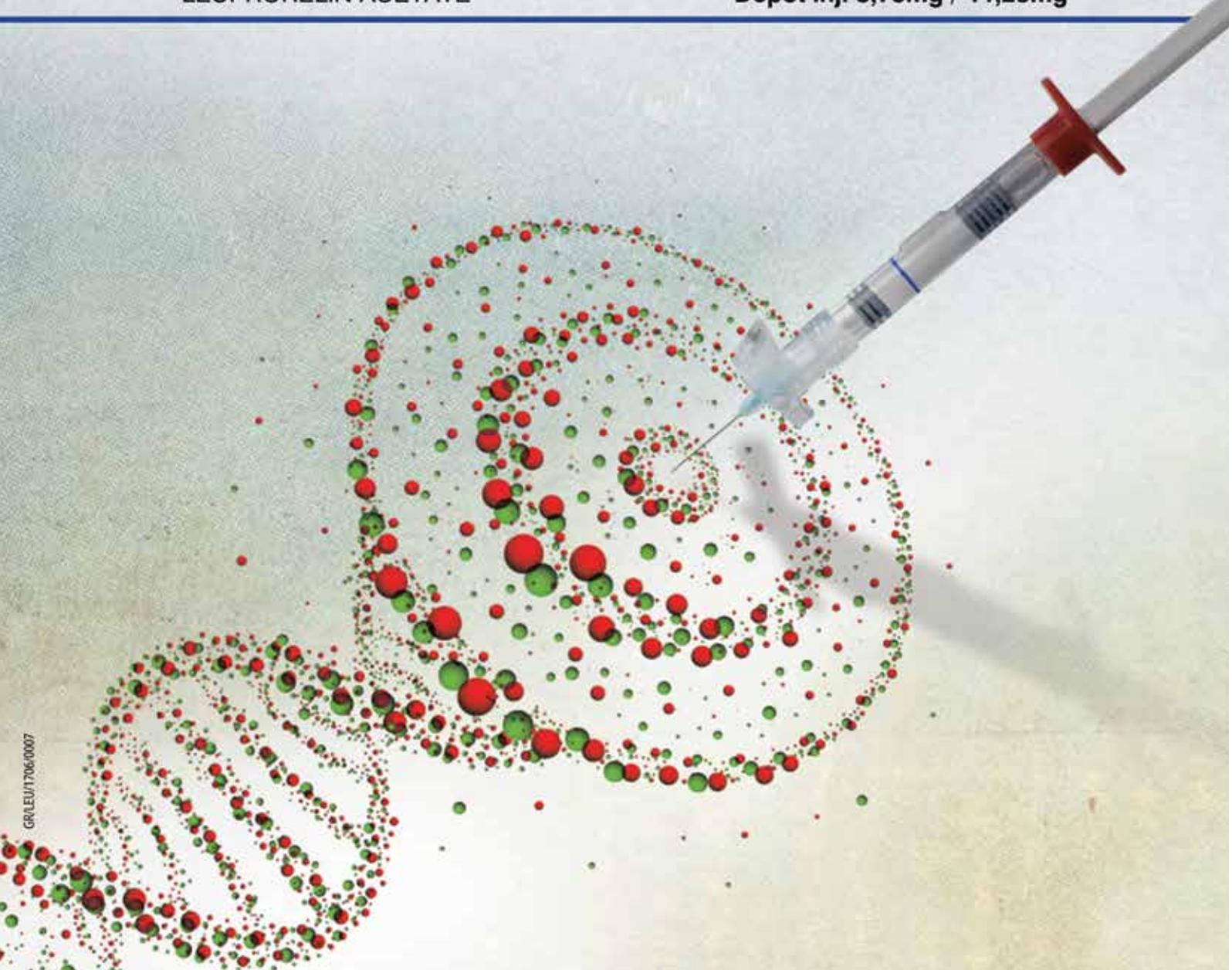


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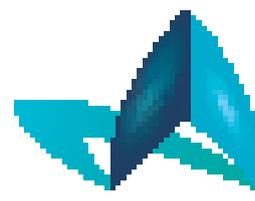
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