Editorial

What's inside

GROIN MANAGEMENT IN PENILE CANCER

Penile cancer is relatively common in India. Despite the obvious appearance, patients often present late with inguinal metastasis. However, a significant proportion have no palpable nodes, and understanding the management of these patients is important to offer them the best chances of a cure. Niyogi *et al.*[1] review the indication of groin dissection in patients with clinically negative groins, an area of some debate and uncertainty.

ROBOTIC PARTIAL NEPHRECTOMY

Robot-assisted surgery is now widely available, including India, and while Bora *et al.*[2] present the SWOT analysis on this technology, Gul *et al.*[3] review the techniques and outcomes of robot-assisted partial nephrectomy, one of the most common indications for robotic assistance. This surgery has undergone a number of modifications built upon the experience gained from laparoscopic surgery. Some of the issues discussed include the assistant sparing technique, usage of sliding clip for renorrhaphy, and warm ischemia preventing methods. The authors also review the outcomes of this surgery in terms of oncology and functional results.

OPEN SURGERY FOR PHEOCHROMOCYTOMA

Pheochromocytomas continue to be considered a difficult surgery both because of the hemodynamic and anesthetic challenges and also the rarity of the condition. Prakash *et al.*[4] present their experience of open surgery in 25 patients out of a cohort of 106 patients. The summary of their findings is that the most common reasons for performing open surgery include tumor those requiring concomitant procedures. However, they also show that the outcomes in such surgeries are no worse than other patients.

HOLMIUM LASER FOR URETEROCELE

The holmium:yttrium-aluminum-garnet laser has proven to be one of the most versatile of energy sources in the urological operating rooms with its excellent soft-tissue and stone fragmentation abilities. It has been used to replace the diathermy as an energy source in a number of surgeries. The ability to deliver energy through a slim fiber adds to its versatility for pediatric patients, and Di Renzo *et al.*[5] present data on its use in decompression of ureteroceles in pediatric patients. They summarize that the laser is a safe and effective option and may even have some advantages over electrocautery.

URINARY MARKERS OF BLADDER CANCER

Patients with nonmuscle invasive bladder cancer require long-term follow-up with invasive cystoscopy at regular intervals. Biomarkers, particularly those that can be measured in urine, have been a target of research in an effort to decrease the need for such intensive follow-up. Kapoor *et al.*[6] present their data on one such marker, minichromosome maintenance protein 2 – a cell cycle regulatory protein, in 150 patients compared with 100 controls and suggest that this may be a sensitive and specific marker that deserves further investigation.

ERAS PROTOCOL FOR ROBOT ASSISTED CYSTECTOMY

The ERAS protocol is widely used in surgical units, either in its entirety or in some modified form, to decrease postoperative complications and hospital stay. Radical cystectomy with urinary diversion is possibly the most morbid of procedures performed by urological surgeons, and all attempts to minimize its complications are likely to be useful. Tamhankar *et al.*[7] describe the use of the ERAS protocol in a cohort of patients undergoing robot-assisted radical cystectomy with intracorporeal ileal conduit urinary diversion in 35 patients and report their outcomes. The incidence of complications continues to be high at 45% including 14% major complications. The authors suggest that more data from multi-institutional studies would be required to assess the true value of the intervention.

ISCHEMIA-REPERFUSION INJURY DURING KIDNEY TRANSPLANT

Despite the high technical success rate of renal transplantation, particularly in live-related donors, ischemia-reperfusion injury is a potential source of delayed or decreased function. Animal models have been used to assess the role of stem cells in preventing this injury. Osman *et al.*[8] describe an extensive canine study using both bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells and adipose tissue-derived mesenchymal stem cells and suggest that such interventions may reduce the incidence of ischemic reperfusion injury.

URINARY BIOMARKERS IN PROSTATE CANCER

Continuing on the theme of minimally invasive biomarker estimation for the detection of urological cancers, Shrivastava

et al.[9] report a study evaluating urinary prostate-specific antigen and microseminoprotein-beta in men with prostate cancer. They note that in men with cancer, the levels of these markers remain constant despite a prostatic massage while the levels rise in men who do not have cancer. They hypothesize that this may be related to architectural change in glands in prostate cancer and these markers may help identify a cohort of men with indication for prostate biopsy.

INDIAN JOURNAL OF UROLOGY AWARDS 2019

A journal survives on its readership and a scientific journal, additionally, on its authors and reviewers. This first issue of the year carries the list of awardees of the best papers and best reviewers of the journal for 2019.

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