

100% 5-Year Survival Rate in Laparoscopic Radical Hysterectomy for Early-Stage Cervical Cancer is an Achievable Task

The debate continues whether minimally invasive surgery for early-stage cervical cancer should continue or be abandoned in favor of findings in a prospective, randomized trial.^[1] Although minimally invasive radical hysterectomy has been shown to be associated with poorer outcome in LACC study, many centers worldwide performing minimally invasive radical hysterectomy have data and experience that prove otherwise.^[2-4] Systematic reviews and meta-analysis found no significant difference in 5-year overall survival and disease-free survival for patients undergoing either open or minimally invasive radical hysterectomy.^[5]

Due to concern for patient safety, as well as to better guide clinicians in our local institution on how to proceed with the management of early-stage cervical cancer, we performed a review of surgical and oncologic outcomes of patients operated by laparoscopic radical hysterectomy in Chang Gung Memorial Hospital for cervical carcinoma stage 1A1–1B1 from January 2009 to May 2014.

Electronic medical record system was accessed. Patient demographic data, preoperative histological diagnosis, as well as surgical outcome were analyzed. Results were a significant, 100% 5-year survival for all patients. There were no cases of recurrence or death reported.

It is well known that the standardization of surgical technique is difficult, and individual surgeons perform differently from one another,^[6] but adequacy of radicality and sticking to principle of oncologic concepts are the key points in treating cervical cancer with high survival rate. The Asia Pacific Association for Gynecologic Endoscopy and Minimally Invasive Therapy has embarked on the Minimally Invasive Therapy Versus Open Radical Hysterectomy trial in an attempt to clarify the issue at hand.^[7] Strict selection criteria and standardization of surgical technique are the main focus of the said trial. We would like to invite suitably qualified centers and surgeons to participate in this study.

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