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IN BRIEF

URINARY INCONTINENCE

New transobturator system has high success rate in men

A research team in Vienna has demonstrated the safety and efficacy of a novel, self-anchoring adjustable transobturator system—the AMI® ATOMS System—for the treatment of stress urinary incontinence following prostate surgery. In a prospective nonrandomized single-center study that assessed 39 patients before and after surgery (mean follow-up of 16.9 months), the overall success rate was 84%. The minimally-invasive implant is appropriate for long-term use.

Original article Seweryn, J. *et al.* Initial experience and results with a new adjustable transobturator male system for the treatment of stress urinary incontinence. *J. Urol.* doi:10.1016/j.juro.2011.10.138

ANDROLOGY

Hypospadias linked to reduced estrogen receptor expression

Further light has been shed on the proposed role that estrogenic disruption has on the etiology of hypospadias. A difference in the expression and location of estrogen receptors α and β has been established in hypospadiac foreskins compared to controls. Foreskin samples were collected from patients undergoing hypospadias repair ($n=35$) and elective circumcision ($n=15$), as well as archived human fetal penises ($n=4$). The presence of hypospadias was associated with significantly decreased mRNA expression levels of both receptors ($P<0.001$).

Original article Qiao, L. *et al.* Expression of estrogen receptor alpha and beta is decreased in hypospadias. *J. Urol.* doi:10.1016/j.juro.2011.12.008

BLADDER CANCER

cis-Urocanic acid could prevent bladder cancer progression

Data from a recent study suggest that *cis*-urocanic acid (a UVB-induced immunosuppressor) could offer protection against the progression of bladder cancer in rats. Exposure of the rat bladder cancer cell line AY-27 to *cis*-urocanic acid had an antiproliferative effect *in vitro*. Instilling AY-27 cells into the acid-treated bladders of 17 rats and treating the bladders with *cis*-urocanic acid for 2 weeks resulted in an antitumor effect *in vivo*. All tumors in control rats were shown to be muscle invasive, compared to just 43% in rats treated with *cis*-urocanic acid.

Original article Arentsen, C. H. *et al.* Antitumor effects of *cis*-urocanic acid, on experimental urothelial cell carcinoma of the bladder. *J. Urol.* doi:10.1016/j.juro.2011.11.080

BLADDER CANCER

Circulating tumor cells could predict risk of recurrence

New evidence suggests that circulating tumor cells (CTCs) in patients with metastatic non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer (NMIBC) can be used to identify individuals with a high risk of recurrence and predict the need for adjuvant therapy. In a recent study, CTC counts were analyzed for 44 patients with NMIBC at first diagnosis and then periodically over a 2-year follow-up period. CTC were detectable in eight patients (18%) and their presence was significantly associated with shorter time to first recurrence (6.5 versus 21.7 months; $P<0.001$).

Original article Gazzaniga, P. *et al.* Prognostic value of circulating tumor cells in nonmuscle invasive bladder cancer: a CellSearch analysis. *Ann. Oncol.* doi:10.1093/annonc/mdr619