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IN BRIEF

BLADDER CANCER

New data on bladder-sparing chemoradiation regimens

Addition of paclitaxel or fluorouracil to cisplatin plus radiotherapy has been evaluated in a phase 2 trial of patients with muscle-invasive bladder cancer. Although the study was not designed to compare the regimens directly, complete responses were achieved in 72% of patients in the paclitaxel group and 62% of those who received fluorouracil. Paclitaxel was associated with metabolic adverse effects, whereas fluorouracil seemed to cause more genitourinary and gastrointestinal effects.

Original article Mitin, T. *et al.* Transurethral surgery and twice-daily radiation plus paclitaxel-cisplatin or fluorouracil-cisplatin with selective bladder preservation and adjuvant chemotherapy for patients with muscle invasive bladder cancer (RTOG 0233): a randomised multicentre phase 2 trial. *Lancet Oncol.* doi:10.1016/S1470-2045(13)70255-9

STONES

Use of a safety guidewire during ureteroscopy questioned

Researchers in Norway have demonstrated that instead of providing assistance, the presence of a safety guidewire during ureteroscopy can cause increased resistance against the semirigid ureteroscope as it moves up and down the ureter. 40 patients were randomized to undergo endoscopic treatment for stone disease either with or without a safety guidewire. Digital force measurements revealed significantly higher forces during insertion and retraction of the ureteroscope in the presence of the guidewire, which could increase the risk of harm.

Original article Ulvik, O. *et al.* A safety guidewire influences the pushing and pulling forces needed to move the ureteroscope in the ureter: a clinical randomized, crossover study. *J. Endourol.* doi:10.1089/end.2013.0027

PROSTATE CANCER

Increased use of advanced technology in low-risk men

Concerns have been raised that the rapid adoption of new treatment technologies—robotic prostatectomy and intensity-modulated radiotherapy—has led to their overuse in men who are unlikely to die of prostate cancer. New analyses of SEER-Medicare data show that between 2004 and 2009 the use of advanced treatment technologies for men unlikely to die of prostate cancer increased from 13% or 129.2 per 1,000 patients diagnosed to 24% or 244.2 per 1,000 patients diagnosed ($P < 0.001$).

Original article Jacobs, B. L. *et al.* Use of advanced treatment technologies among men at low risk of dying from prostate cancer. *JAMA* **309**, 2587–2595 (2013)

PATHOLOGY

'Normal' rats have abnormal testes

Preclinical studies often use normal adult male Sprague Dawley rats as a model of testicular function. Pathological analysis of the testes of 616 rats that were previously used in such studies has revealed that 2.3% had abnormal testes. Complete interruption of spermatogenesis, partial germ cell arrest, progressive hypospermatogenesis and other abnormalities were discovered, suggesting that normal Sprague Dawley rats might not be an appropriate experimental model of normal testes.

Original article Li, J. *et al.* A retrospective analysis of pathological changes of testicular tissue in normal adult rats. *Andrologia* doi:10.1111/and.12128