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IN BRIEF

INCONTINENCE

Vaginal ring offers safe, sustained oxybutynin delivery

A vaginal ring for sustained release of the antimuscarinic drug oxybutynin performed well in a phase II, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of 323 women with overactive bladder. The oxybutynin vaginal ring is a potential alternative to oral, topical and transdermal delivery routes, which have high discontinuation rates owing to adverse events, such as dry mouth and constipation. The oxybutynin ring resulted in significant improvements in incontinence measures compared with a placebo ring, and both rings had a similar safety profile.

Original article Gittelman, M. *et al.* A phase 2, randomized, double-blind, efficacy and safety study of oxybutynin vaginal ring for alleviation of overactive bladder symptoms in women. *J. Urol.* doi:10.1016/j.juro.2013.11.019

KIDNEY CANCER

Multiport robotic partial nephrectomy superior to R-LESS

Conventional multiport robotic partial nephrectomy (RPN) resulted in significantly better surgical outcomes than robotic, laparoendoscopic, single-site partial nephrectomy (R-LESS PN) in a retrospective, single-centre study of patients with renal cell carcinoma. Trifecta (defined in this study as warm ischaemia time ≤ 20 min, negative surgical margins and no surgical complications) was achieved in 38 of 89 patients (42.7%) treated with RPN and 20 of 78 patients (25.6%) treated with R-LESS PN.

Original article Komninos, C. *et al.* R-LESS partial nephrectomy trifecta outcome is inferior to multiport robotic partial nephrectomy: comparative analysis. *Eur. Urol.* doi:10.1016/j.eururo.2013.10.058

PROSTATE CANCER

Vitamin D receptor agonist reduces intracrine androgens

Vitamin D receptor ligand EB1089 induced significant expression of genes involved in androgen metabolism in androgen-dependent prostate cancer cell culture experiments, as well as reducing cell proliferation. EB1089 treatment enhanced turnover of testosterone and DHEA—substrates for intracrine conversion to androgen—to their biologically inactive forms. This response was linked to increased CYP3A expression and activity, and inhibition of CYP3A blocked the antiproliferative response to EB1089. This agonist could potentially complement other antiandrogenic drugs, such as abiraterone.

Original article Doherty, D. *et al.* Vitamin D receptor agonist EB1089 is a potent regulator of prostatic "intracrine" metabolism. *Prostate* doi:10.1002/pros.22748

KIDNEY CANCER

Cryoablation wins on surgical, loses on oncological results

Laparoscopic cryoablation (LCA) of small renal tumours results in worse oncological outcomes than laparoscopic partial nephrectomy (LPN). A systematic review and meta-analysis found significantly increased risk of local (RR 9.39) and metastatic (RR 4.68) tumour progression after LCA compared with LPN. By contrast, perioperative outcomes were better for LCA than for LPN. This analysis supports the use of surgical resection in the majority of cases.

Original article Klatte, T. *et al.* Systematic review and meta-analysis of perioperative and oncological outcomes of laparoscopic cryoablation versus laparoscopic partial nephrectomy for the treatment of small renal tumors. *J. Urol.* doi:10.1016/j.juro.2013.11.006