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IN BRIEF

PENILE CANCER

Predictors of cancer-specific mortality

A retrospective study of data from 314 patients who experienced disease recurrence after surgical treatment for squamous cell carcinoma of the penis (collected between 1949 and 2012) has found shorter time to recurrence—whether local, regional or distant—to be a significant predictor of cancer-specific mortality (CSM; $P < 0.0006$). Lymph node metastasis at the time of initial treatment, and regional and distant recurrence were also associated with CSM. Time to recurrence should be considered in risk stratification for treatment planning.

Original article Rieken, M. *et al.* Predictors of cancer-specific mortality after disease recurrence in patients with squamous cell carcinoma of the penis. *Eur. Urol.* doi:10.1016/j.eururo.2014.05.032

PROSTATE CANCER

Monoamine oxidase A—a therapeutic target?

Increased expression of monoamine oxidase A (MAOA) in high-grade, aggressive prostate cancer correlates with worse clinical outcomes. Now, researchers have demonstrated, in knockdown and overexpression studies in human prostate cancer cell lines, that MAOA induces epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition and stabilization of HIF1 α . These effects seem to occur through the VEGF to TWIST1 signalling pathway, which is also activated in high-grade prostate cancer specimens. Knockdown and pharmacological inhibition of MAOA reduced prostate cancer growth and metastasis in xenograft mice.

Original article Wu, J. B. *et al.* Monoamine oxidase A mediates prostate tumorigenesis and cancer metastasis. *J. Clin. Invest.* doi:10.1172/JCI70982

ANDROLOGY

Predicting response to clomiphene citrate

Clomiphene citrate is effective for treating hypogonadism, but its use often relies on patient interest in preserving testicular volume and spermatogenesis. Of 76 men assessed for treatment response, 62% met the success criteria (an increase of ≥ 200 ng/dl in total testosterone at ≥ 6 months after starting treatment), with successful responders showing a mean total testosterone increase of 302 ± 76 ng/dl. Predictors were found to be pretreatment testicular volume and luteinizing hormone levels.

Original article Mazzola, C. R. *et al.* Predicting biochemical response to clomiphene citrate in men with hypogonadism. *J. Sex. Med.* doi:10.1111/jsm.12592

MALE FACTOR INFERTILITY

Postacrosomal WW binding protein improves fertilization

Increased levels of postacrosomal WW binding protein (PAWP) in sperm are correlated with higher fertilization rates, and normal embryonic development after intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI). Levels of PAWP in sperm from 110 men undergoing couples' infertility treatment were assessed. Sperm with high PAWP levels were associated with higher fertilization rates and low numbers of arrested embryos 3–5 days after ICSI. This correlation was independent of age, DNA fragmentation and other sperm assessment parameters.

Original article Aarabi, M. *et al.* Sperm content of postacrosomal WW binding protein is related to fertilization outcomes in patients undergoing assisted reproductive technology. *Fertil. Steril.* doi:10.1016/j.fertnstert.2014.05.003