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IN BRIEF

SURGERY

As easy as ABC: predicting partial nephrectomy morbidity

A new arterial-based complexity (ABC) scoring system for the prediction of perioperative morbidity during partial nephrectomy has been developed by Massimiliano Spaliviero and colleagues. In this system, renal cortical masses are categorized by the order of vessels needing transection or dissection. Evaluation of the ABC score showed it has significant correlation with ischaemia time, blood loss and risk of urinary fistula formation, is intuitive and easy to use and helps to predict the outcomes of kidney surgery.

Original article Spaliviero, M. *et al.* An arterial based complexity (ABC) scoring system to assess the morbidity profile of partial nephrectomy. *Eur. Urol.* doi:10.1016/j.eururo.2015.08.008

KIDNEY CANCER

Trebananib plus sunitinib improves survival outcomes

Trebananib in combination with sunitinib improves progression-free survival (PFS) and overall survival in patients with metastatic renal cell carcinoma (mRCC); however it also causes toxicity. In a phase II trial, patients receiving a higher dose of trebananib combined with sunitinib had a median PFS 2.5 months longer than those on the lower dose, but a greater proportion of them experienced grade 3 or greater adverse events. These data suggest that trebananib plus sunitinib might benefit patients with mRCC, but further investigation is needed.

Original article Atkins, M. B. *et al.* Trebananib in combination with sunitinib in patients with metastatic renal cell cancer: an open label, multicenter, phase II study. *J. Clin. Oncol.* doi:10.1200/JCO.2014.60.6012

BIOPSY

Quick and easy prostate core assessment by VR-SIM

Video-rate structured illumination microscopy (VR-SIM) offers a potential alternative to destructive pathology at the point of procedure in prostate biopsy. Sensitivity of VR-SIM ranged from 63–88%, improving to 75–92% when biopsies had >5% tumour content, and specificity ranged from 78–89%. VR-SIM offers good image quality and is fast and easy to perform, which are favourable features for point-of-procedure biopsy pathology.

Original article Wang, M. *et al.* High-resolution rapid diagnostic imaging of whole prostate biopsies using video-rate fluorescence structured illumination microscopy. *Cancer Res.* doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-14-3806

PROSTATE CANCER

In the balance: screening intensity versus overdiagnosis

Analysis of data from the European Randomized Study of Prostate Cancer Screening has shown that for one death from prostate cancer to be averted, between 12 and 36 excess cancer cases need to be detected. The extent of overdiagnosis and mortality reduction were closely associated (correlation coefficient $r=0.76$). This interrelation between benefit and harm of screening means efforts to increase mortality effects also increase overdiagnosis and a balance has not yet been found.

Original article Auvinen, A. *et al.* Absolute effect of prostate cancer screening: balance of benefits and harms by center within the European Randomized Study of Prostate Cancer Screening. *Clin. Cancer Res.* doi:10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-15-0941