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IN BRIEF

SMALL RENAL MASSES

Partial nephrectomy with thulium laser safe and effective

A new study has demonstrated that using thulium:yttrium-aluminium-garnet laser in laparoscopic partial nephrectomy is safe and effective. 15 patients with a mean tumour diameter of 2.85 cm underwent the surgical procedure, which took on average 168 min to perform. Importantly, no hilar clamping is required with this technique, so warm ischaemic time was 0 min for all patients. Minimal blood loss (mean 341 ml) was noted, tumour margins were negative for all patients and serum creatinine level did not increase, indicating preserved renal function.

Original article Thomas, A. Z. *et al.* Zero ischemia laparoscopic partial thulium laser nephrectomy. *J. Endourol.* doi:10.1089/end.2012.0527

BLADDER CANCER

Urinary proteins identified as cancer-associated

A new study has validated findings of urine analyses in patients with bladder cancer, identifying which urinary proteins are expressed in cancer tissue. Specifically, increased levels of apolipoprotein E (APOE), fibrinogen β chain precursor (FGB) and polymerase (RNA) I polypeptide E (POLR1E) were associated with increased tumour stage. Furthermore, the expression of α 1-antitrypsin (SERPINA1) correlated with increased risk of tumour progression in patients with Ta and T1 tumours. These findings might improve the accuracy of urine cytology assays to noninvasively detect bladder cancer.

Original article Lindén, M. *et al.* Tumour expression of bladder cancer-associated urinary proteins. *BJU Int.* doi:10.1111/j.1464-410X.2012.11653.x

SURGERY

Risk factors for positioning injury during robotic surgery

Although robot-assisted surgery is associated with a number of perioperative and postoperative benefits, patients are at risk of nerve injury caused by their position on the operating table. A single-centre retrospective study has determined that approximately 20% of positioning injuries persist for >6 months; these injuries were associated with longer operating time. Furthermore, patients with multiple comorbidities (American Society of Anesthesiologists class 4 or higher) are at particular risk. Identifying these factors before surgery might enable physicians to mitigate the risk of positioning injury.

Original article Mills, J. T. *et al.* Positioning injuries associated with robotic-assisted urologic surgery. *J. Urol.* doi:10.1016/j.juro.2013.02.3185

INFECTION

Inadequate T_{FH} cells diminishes B cell response to HIV

Although HIV infection is associated with follicular helper T cell (T_{FH}) expansion, research has shown that these cells are unable to help B cells, possibly contributing to viral pathogenesis. The programmed cell death ligand 1 (PD-L1) on the T_{FH} cells interact, blocking cell proliferation, cell activation and IL-21 secretion. Blocking PD-L1 signalling or addition of IL-21 can reverse this effect, which suggests these targets might be useful in controlling HIV pathogenesis and preventing future infections.

Original article Cubas, R. A. *et al.* Inadequate T follicular cell help impairs B cell immunity during HIV infection. *Nat. Med.* doi:10.1038/nm.3109