

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Current Problems in Surgery

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/cpsurg

Foreword



The treatment of rectal cancer has continued to improve. With these advances however, management has also become more complex, requiring increasingly nuanced decision making and surgical technique. In this issue of *Current Problems in Surgery*, Dr. Evie Carchman and her colleagues from the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine provide an insightful perspective on this topic entitled, "Advances in the Management of Rectal Cancer" They begin with a discussion of staging and its impact on choice of therapy. They then describe the role of local excision, including the evolution of transanal endoscopic microsurgery and transanal minimally invasive surgery. The evolving use of transabdominal minimally invasive surgery, including the use of the robot, is then covered in significant detail. They move on to a thorough discussion of transanal total mesorectal excision. Next, they address the data on the use of a watch-and-wait strategy for rectal cancers that have had a complete response to neoadjuvant therapy and of the role of extended lymphadenectomy. Finally, they present a very balanced discussion of the National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer. This superb treatise from experts in the field is a significant addition to the literature on this topic and should become a needed resource for clinicians caring for patients with this devastating tumor.

Stanley W. Ashley, MD
Editor in Chief