

Enhanced Recovery after Surgery (ERAS) program with Robot Assisted Radical Prostatectomy (RALP) safely improves post-operative length of stay

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Dinneen E., Mohammed A., Baker H., Patel D., Sridhar A., Nathan S., Briggs T., Kelkar A., Sooriakumaran P., Rajan P., Kelly J., Shaw G.

University College London Hospitals, Dept. of Urology, London, United Kingdom

Introduction & Objectives: Enhanced Recovery after Surgery (ERAS) programs are multimodal care pathways that aim to improve post-operative recovery. There is limited evidence to support ERAS in patients undergoing robot-assisted laparoscopic radical prostatectomy (RALP). This study evaluates impact of the implementation of an ERAS program on patient outcomes following RALP at a high-volume regional pelvic oncology centre.

Materials & Methods: An ERAS program was introduced at our institution in 2014. We performed retrospective review of electronic records to identify 2 cohorts for post-operative outcome analysis. Cohort A (pre-ERAS) includes all RALPs performed in 2012 and 2013. Cohort B (post-ERAS) includes all RALPs performed in 2015-2017. Outcomes included in our analysis are length of stay (LOS), readmission rates and emergency department (ED) attendances. Important areas of focus in our ERAS program include pre-operative surgical school, appropriate analgesia, avoidance of opiates, drain removal, early mobility, oral intake, recognising variance from normal recovery, goal setting and standardisation.

Results: Cohort A (pre-ERAS) includes 376 patients. Cohort B (post-ERAS) includes 1,379 patients. Age (median 63), ASA (median 2), and prostate cancer stage (median pT2c in both groups) were not different in either group. Median LOS was 3 days (IQR 2-4) in cohort A versus 1 day (IQR 1-2) in Cohort B. 30-day readmission rates (4.1% Cohort A and 5.2% Cohort B) and 30-day ED attendance rates (9% Cohort A and 9.4% Cohort B) were not statistically significantly different between cohorts.

Conclusions: Our results demonstrate the ability of a standardised, detailed, multi-modal, evidence-based ERAS program to help patients return home quicker and safely after RALP. We review some of the key elements of this program in this abstract.