



Editorial

Editor's Perspectives – November 2019



In the past several Editor's Perspectives, I have been talking about non-invasive surgical procedures, citing the two commonest procedures used: extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy and radiosurgery. The third such a procedure which has developed into clinical use is high-intensity focus ultrasound, or HIFU in short. HIFU uses non-ionizing ultrasonic waves to heat tissues. It can be used to increase the flow of blood or lymph, or to destroy tissues such as tumors through a number of mechanisms [1]. Continuous or pulsed ultrasonic waves can be used. Ultrasound waves are focused non-invasively to heat tissues deep in the body without any need for an incision [1,2]. The main applications are to destroy tissues through ablation or cavitation using high levels of energy, or increasing perfusion or lymphatic flow in physiotherapy settings using low levels of energy. For clinical uses, HIFU has been reported in treating neurological conditions like essential tremor, neuropathic pain and Parkinson's disease. It has been used in treatment of uterine adenomyosis and fibroids. HIFU has also been used successfully to treat malignant tumors including prostate, bone, brain, breast, liver, pancreas, rectum, kidney and testicular cancers. The use of HIFU for cosmetic purposes for skin tightening and to reduce vaginal laxity is controversial [1,2].

As usual, this November issue of the International Journal of Surgery is packed with systematic reviews and meta-analyses. Of the eight systematic reviews and meta-analyses, the first article on the "Clinicopathological and prognostic significance of CXCR4 high expression in renal cell carcinoma" concluded that the expression was associated with increased risk, progression and prognosis for this cancer. The second article on the "Efficacy and safety of active abdominal compression-decompression versus standard CPR for cardiac arrests" concluded that active abdominal compression-decompression cardiopulmonary resuscitation was superior to the standard cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The third article on "Intraductal papillary mucinous carcinoma versus pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma" concluded that the former tumor had a more indolent course with a better 5-year overall survival compared to the latter tumor. However, with higher TNM stages, the survival of the two tumors became similar. The fourth article on "Minimally invasive percutaneous nephrolithotomy versus retrograde intrarenal surgery in surgical management of upper urinary stones" showed that the former procedure was more effective in treating upper urinary stones, especially lower calyceal stones 1–2 cm in size. The fifth article on "The association between serum vitamin D, fertility and semen quality" showed that nutrition, especially vitamin D, plays an important role in men's sexual health. The sixth article which asked the question "Is laparoscopic lavage safe in purulent diverticulitis versus colonic resection?" concluded that laparoscopic lavage resulted in similar mortality, shorter operation time and hospital stay. However, this procedure alone was inadequate for sepsis control and might result in more unplanned reoperations. The seventh article compared

"laparoscopic groin hernia repair with or without mesh fixation" and concluded that avoiding mesh fixation might reduce postoperative pain and procedure time. The eighth article is a meta-analysis conducted on matched controlled studies on the "Effect of Parkinson's disease on primary total joint arthroplasty outcomes". The study concluded that these patients were at increased risks of developing medical and surgical complications in superficial wound infection, dislocation and deep vein thrombosis. However, the disease did not increase the risks of periprosthetic infection and revision.

In addition, there is a systematic review with network meta-analysis on randomized controlled trials on the "Warming strategies for preventing hypothermia and shivering during cesarean section". This study concluded that forced-air-based warming strategies prevented shivering and conductive mattress-based warming strategies reduced hypothermia in these women.

There is a review article on the "Challenges encountered in the management of gallstones induced pancreatitis in pregnancy".

Of the remaining four comparative studies published in this issue of our Journal, two are propensity matched studies on the "Comparison of cyanoacrylate and hookwire for localizing small pulmonary nodules", and on the "Systematic assessment of complications after robotic-assisted total versus distal gastrectomy for advanced gastric cancer". The third study is a retrospective study comparing "Laparoscopic extralevator abdominoperineal resection versus laparoscopic abdominoperineal resection for lower rectal cancer". The fourth study compared "Double J stent to externally draining ureteric stent in enhancing recovery after kidney transplantation".

Of the original researches, there is a study using a questionnaire to find out whether "surgeons follow the latest guidelines in laparoscopic closure technique". Other articles included an article on mini-gastric bypass by Deitel M and Rutledge R, a cohort study on risk factors for postoperative delirium after elective major abdominal surgery in elderly patients, a pilot study on a novel virtual hepatectomy (the resection process map) in visualizing the resection process, a study on the prognostic effect of troponin elevation in patients undergoing carotid endarterectomy with regional anesthesia, a study on the role of preoperative vitamin D supplementation to reduce post-thyroidectomy hypocalcemia, a study on dynamic liver function as an independent predictor of recurrence-free survival after curative liver resection for hepatocellular carcinoma, and a study on the impact of closure of mesenteric defect on the incidence of small bowel obstruction due to adhesions after laparoscopic antecolic Roux-en-y gastric bypass.

In our last Editorial Meeting held in London, Board Members decided to invite prominent surgeons to submit "Invited Editorials" or "Invited Commentaries" on articles which have recently been published either as electronic or printed forms of publications in their respective fields of expertise. As a consequences, there are 15 of these invited

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commentaries. In addition, there are 6 articles in the form of a Letter to the Editor or a commentary which were initiated by our readers commenting on articles which have recently been published in our Journal. Interested readers please go through these short commentaries as they contain a lot of critical comments and useful information.

The Editorial Board of our Journal has been trying hard to improve on the quality of the Journal as well as to make the Journal more interesting to our readers. We welcome any suggestions to further improve our Journal.

References

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