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Letter to the Editor

Surgery for metastases not of colorectal, neuroendocrine, sarcomatous, or ovarian (NCNSO) origin: The cornerstone but not the only stone



Dear Editor,

We thank Tez et al. for their interest in our study.¹ As discussed in our manuscript, the entity of metastases not of colorectal, neuroendocrine, sarcomatous or ovarian (NCNSO) origin is characterized by a strong heterogeneity.² Strategies and arsenals to treat these different diseases have rapidly evolved during last decades, and have thus become analogously heterogenous. We acknowledge the point raised by Tez et al.; we have not attempted to systematically analyze the various systemic therapies our patients received. For essentially all of these patients, surgery was but one element of a multidisciplinary approach that may have also included chemotherapy, radiotherapy, immunotherapy or other nonsurgical locoregional treatments, and the decision to proceed with surgery came out of discussion at a multidisciplinary tumor board, most commonly at the urging of our medical oncology colleagues. No doubt, the optimal role of surgery vis-à-vis other treatments differs based of the type of cancer; comprehensive study of this area would require a disease-by-disease analysis. Our purpose was not to provide such an analysis, but rather to raise awareness that, in the context of multidisciplinary care, there may be a role for surgery in certain patients with cancers for which guidelines do not list resection of liver metastases among the therapeutic options. We would be the first to agree that surgery only makes sense in this context. We also readily admit that in this sort of study it is impossible to attribute the outcomes achieved to the surgery performed; the patients in this series are outliers with multiple favorable attributes. This is an area for which randomized trials are not feasible, and the care of patients is and will likely remain based on the opinions of informed experts rather than on high-level evidence.

Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data related to this article can be found at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amjsurg.2018.02.005>.

References

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2. Labgaa I, et al. Liver resection for metastases not of colorectal, neuroendocrine, sarcomatous, or ovarian (NCNSO) origin: a multicentric study. *Am J Surg.* 2018;215:125–130.

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