LONG-TERM OUTCOMES OF TRANSANAL TOTAL MESORECTAL EXCISION FOR RECTAL CANCER

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INTRODUCTION: Transanal total mesorectal excision (TaTME) for rectal cancer offers a better vision of the dissection planes and facilitates the distal transection of the rectum. The aim of this study was to compare functional outcomes, local recurrence rate y 2-years overall survival and disease free survival rates of TaTME and laparoscopic total mesorectal excision (LPC TME).

MATERIAL AND METHODS: From December 2016 to October 2018, 50 patients (36 males and 14 females) with low rectal cancer and an age of 67 (55.7-75.2) years underwent TME (20 TaTME and 30 LPCTME).

RESULTS: Clinical features and quality indicators for rectal cancer surgery were similar in both groups. After a median follow-up of 35 (30-40) months, low anterior resection syndrome rate was 14% (15% vs 13%, p = 0.043), fecal incontinence rate was 8% (15% vs 3%, p = 0.017) and sexual dysfunction was 8% (15% vs 3%, p = 0.017). Systemic recurrence rate was 10% (15% vs 6%, p = 0.377). One patient presented local recurrence 2 years after TATME. 2-years overall survival rate was 98% (95% vs 100%, p = 0.400) and 2-years disease free survival rate was 90 % (85%) vs 93%, p = 0.377).

CONCLUSION: Although 2-years overall survival and disease free survival rates were similar in TaTME and LPC TME group, functional outcomes were worse after TATME in our study.