

Mind the Gap Between Scientific Literature Recommendations and Effective Implementation. Is There Still a Role for Surgery in the Treatment of Locally Advanced Cervical Carcinoma?*

Alexandru Blidaru^{1,2}, Cristian Bordea^{1,2}, Traean Burcoş^{2,3}, Laura Duduş⁴, Dan Eniu^{5,7}, Nicolae Ioanid⁶, Gabriel Kacso^{7,8}, Corina Minciuna⁴, Mircea Savu¹, Viorel Scripcariu^{6,9}, Ştefan Tudor⁴, Cătălin Vasilescu^{2,4}, Silviu Voinea^{1,2} (Members of SURCECAN)

¹Oncology Institute "Prof. Dr. Alexandru Trestioreanu", Bucharest, Romania

²University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Carol Davila", Bucharest, Romania

³General Surgery Discipline, Colţea Clinical Hospital, Bucharest, Romania

⁴Department of General Surgery, Fundeni Clinical Institute, Bucharest

⁵Oncology Institute "Prof. Dr. Ion Chiricuţă", Cluj-Napoca, Romania

⁶Regional Institute of Oncology, Iaşi, Romania

⁷University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Iuliu Haţieganu", Cluj-Napoca, Romania

⁸RTC Amethyst, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

⁹University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Grigore T. Popa" Iaşi, Romania

Abstract

According to evidence accumulated in the last years, many cancer centers recommend a treatment plan based solely on chemo-radiotherapy and exclude surgery from the treatment options in locally advanced cervical cancer (LACC). In Romania, surgery was at the forefront of therapeutic options. Nevertheless, current data shows that in fact, a large number of patients are still referred to surgery in various stages of diagnosis and treatment. It was noted that recommendations may differ, in spite of the wide dissemination of the literature data. Works published so far, discussing the role of surgery in LACC treatment shows a lack of consensus. A group of experts in oncology (SURCECAN research group - Surgery of Cervical Cancer) met for a session of the Romanian Surgical Society (Bucharest) on April 18, 2018. They found that LACC therapeutic strategy in Romania may differ somewhat from the European recommendations. On top of that, late enrolment to RT and low acces to specialized centers are the problem. Performing surgery not only allows the evaluation of the pathological response to chemo-radiotherapy, but also achieves a better local control. In conclusion, there is still a place for surgery within locally advanced cervical cancer treatment options. More trials need to be carried out in order to confirm the findings and establish high levels of confidence for each piece of information provided.

Key words: cervical cancer, surgery, therapeutic plan, guidelines, minimally invasive surgery, laparoscopy, robotic surgery