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### ASO Visual Abstract

Dutch Snapshot Research Group; Sluckin, Tania C; Hazen, Sanne-Marije J A; Horsthuis, Karin; Beets-Tan, Regina G H; Aalbers, Arend G J; Beets, Geerard L; Boerma, Evert-Jan G; Borstlap, Jaap; van Breest Smalenburg, Vivian

*Published in:*  
Annals of surgical oncology

*DOI:*  
[10.1245/s10434-023-13666-2](https://doi.org/10.1245/s10434-023-13666-2)

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** You are advised to consult the publisher's version (publisher's PDF) if you wish to cite from it. Please check the document version below.

*Document Version*  
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

*Publication date:*  
2023

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

*Citation for published version (APA):*

Dutch Snapshot Research Group, Sluckin, T. C., Hazen, S.-M. J. A., Horsthuis, K., Beets-Tan, R. G. H., Aalbers, A. G. J., Beets, G. L., Boerma, E.-J. G., Borstlap, J., van Breest Smalenburg, V., Burger, J. W. A., Crolla, R. M. P. H., Daniëls-Gooszen, A. W., Davids, P. H. P., Dunker, M. S., Fabry, H. F. J., Furnée, E. J. B., van Gils, R. A. H., de Haas, R. J., ... Posma, L. A. E. (2023). ASO Visual Abstract: Evaluation of National Surgical Practice for Lateral Lymph Nodes in Rectal Cancer in an Untrained Setting. *Annals of surgical oncology*, 30, 5486–5488. <https://doi.org/10.1245/s10434-023-13666-2>

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## ASO Visual Abstract: Evaluation of National Surgical Practice for Lateral Lymph Nodes in Rectal Cancer in an Untrained Setting

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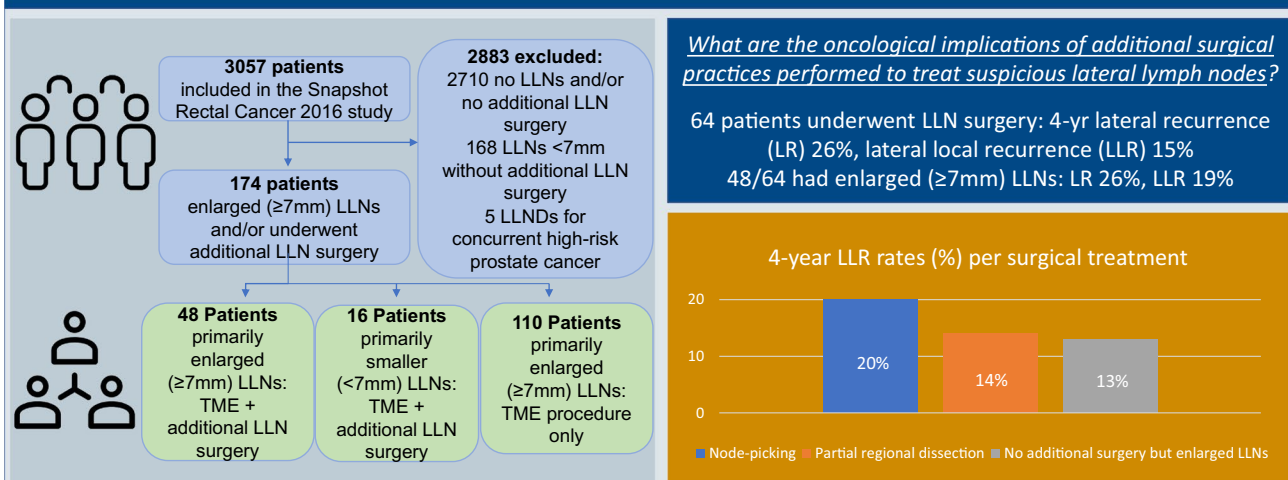
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This cross-sectional retrospective study of 3057 patients from 69 Dutch hospitals (<https://doi.org/10.1245/s10434-023-13460-0>) examined how and when lateral lymph nodes (LLNs) were treated with additional surgical techniques. These techniques included 'node-picking,' the individual removal of a LLN and 'partial regional node dissection' (PRND) in which a certain compartment is removed. In total, 64 patients (2%) were treated with additional LLN surgery, and this cohort resulted in 4-year local recurrence (LR) and lateral local recurrence (LLR) rates of 26% and 15%, respectively. A total of 48 patients (75%) had enlarged

( $\geq 7$  mm) LLNs, with a 4-year LLR rate of 19%. Forty of these patients were treated with node-picking (4-year LLR 20%), and 8 via PRND (4-year LLR 14%). Multivariable analysis showed no significant difference between the 48 patients with enlarged LLNs who underwent additional LLN surgery versus 110 patients with enlarged LLNs who did not. These data insinuate that approximately one-third of patients with enlarged LLNs also undergo additional LLN surgical treatment, but these surgical techniques did not result in satisfactory long-term recurrence rates. Outcomes of LLN surgery after adequate training needs further research.

## Evaluation of National Surgical Practice for Lateral Lymph Nodes (LLNs) in Rectal Cancer in an Untrained Setting



Sluckin et al. *Ann Surg Oncol*.

Visual Abstract by @TaniaSluckin @MirandaKusters for @AnnSurgOncol

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**SURGICAL  
ONCOLOGY**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS** Collaborators of the Dutch Snapshot Research Group: Susanna M. van Aalten, Femke J. Amelung, Marjolein Ankersmit, Imogeen E. Antonisse, Jesse F. Ashruf, Tjeerd S. Aukema, Henk Avenarius, Renu R. Bahadoer, Frans C. H. Bakers, Ilsalieu S. Bakker, Fleur Bangert, Renée M. Barendse, Heleen M. D. Beekhuis, Willem A. Bemelman, Maaïke Berbée, Shira H. de Bie, Robert H. C. Bisschops, Robin D. Blok, Liselotte W. van Bockel, Anniek H. Boer, Frank C. den Boer, Leonora S. F. Boogerd, Wernard A. A. Borstlap, Johanna E. Bouwman, Sicco J. Braak, Manon N. G. J. A. Braat, Jennifer Bradshaw, Amarins T. A. Brandsma, Wim T. van den Broek, Sjik W. van der Burg, Thijs A. Burghgraef, David W. G. ten Cate, Heleen M. Ceha, Jeltsje S. Cnossen, Robert R. J. Coebergh van den Braak, Esther C. J. Consten, Maaïke Corver, Sam Curutchet, Emmelie N. Dekker, Jan Willem T. Dekker, Ahmet Demirkiran, Tyche Derksen, Arjen L. Diederik, Anne M. Dinaux, Kemal Dogan, Ilse M. van Dop, Kitty E. Droogh-de Greve, Hanneke M. H. Duijsens, Johan Duyck, Eino B. van Duyn, Laurentine S. E. van Egdome, Bram Eijlers, Youssef El-Massoudi, Saskia van Elderen, Anouk M. L. H. Emmen, Marc Engelbrecht, Anne C. van Erp, Jeroen A. van Essen, Thomas Fassaert, Eline A. Feitsma, Shirin S. Feshtali, Bas Frietman, Anne M. van Geel, Elisabeth D. Geijsen, Anna A. W. van Geloven, Michael F. Gerhards, Hugo Gielkens, Lucas Goense, Marc J. P. M. Govaert, Wilhelmina M. U. van Grevenstein, E. Joline de Groof, Irene de Groot, Nadia A. G. Hakkenbrak, Mariska D. den Hartogh, Vera Heesink, Joost T. Heikens, Ellen M. Hendriksen, Sjoerd van den Hoek, Erik J. R. J. van der Hoeven, Christiaan Hoff, Anna Hogewoning, Cornelis R. C. Hogewoning, Roel Hompes, Francois van Hoorn, René L. van der Hul, Rieke van Hulst, Farshad Imani, Bas Inberg, Martijn P. W. Intven, Pedro Janssen, Chris E. J. de Jong, Jacqueline Jonkers, Daniela Jou-Valencia, Bas Keizers, Stijn H. J. Ketelaers, Eva Knöps, Sylvia Kok, Stephanie E. M. Kolderman, Robert T. J. Kortekaas, Julie C. Korving, Ingrid M. Koster, Jasenko Krdzalic, Pepijn Krielen, Leonard F. Kroese, Eveline J. T. Krul, Derk H. H. Lahuis, Bas Lamme, An A. G. van Landeghem, Jeroen W. A. Leijten, Mathilde M. Leseman-Hoogenboom, Manou S. de Lijster,

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**FUNDING** The Snapshot Rectal Cancer 2016 study received funding from the Dutch Cancer Society (KWF), reference no. 12768.

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