



ASiT The Association of Surgeons in Training

Introduction: Touch Imprint Cytology (TIC) allows intra-operative assessment of axillary lymph nodes, determining progression to axillary lymph node dissection at the same operation and requires specialist cytopathologists. We present our experience in a District General Hospital.

Methods: A prospective study of consecutive series of patients undergoing level II or III axillary lymph node dissection, from October 2006 to September 2007, was undertaken. One surgeon and three cytopathologists were involved. TIC of a random level I lymph node was compared with imprint node histology. Cytopathologists were blinded to the use of coated and uncoated slides, used for each case.

Results: 38/42 consecutive cases were analysed (4 exclusions as uninterpretable). Mean axillary yield 13.7. 12 TIC nodes were positive, all imprint nodes positive in these cases. 26 TIC nodes negative, all imprint nodes negative in these cases. Sensitivity = 100%, specificity = 100%, false negative rate 0, $P < 0.0001$ (Fischer's exact T-Test). Pathologists observed no difference in coated and uncoated slides.

Conclusion: Our data suggests TIC of intra-operative lymph nodes is a useful tool in a District General setting for determining whether or not to proceed to full ALND at that operation. A dedicated surgical team and cytopathology department is required. Coated or uncoated slides can be used.

THE INFLUENCE OF TOUCH-IMPRINT CYTOLOGY ON FURTHER MANAGEMENT FOR BREAST CANCER PATIENTS

E. Thomee, J.E. Rusby, F.A. MacNeill, P. Osin. The Royal Marsden Hospital, London

Aims: Touch imprint cytology (TIC) maximises the benefits of sentinel lymph node biopsy (SLNB) by allowing completion axillary lymph node dissection (ALND) during the same operation if the SLN is cancer-positive. The aim of this study was to establish and compare TIC sensitivity for macro- and micrometastases, and to examine management after a false-negative TIC.

Methods: Patients were selected for SLNB by axillary ultrasound and FNAC if indicated. All patients with invasive breast cancer undergoing SLNB with TIC between May 2006 and September 2009 were analysed. Results of TIC were compared with final histology.

Results: 367 cases were submitted for TIC. 84 cases (23%) were node-positive. TIC had a sensitivity and specificity of 51% and 100%. TIC sensitivity for macrometastases and micrometastases was 69% and 8% respectively. 43 cases were tumour-positive on TIC of which 40 had macrometastases; all underwent immediate completion ALND. 41 node-positive cases were not identified by TIC. 23 (56%) had micrometastatic disease. 33 (80%) underwent delayed completion ALND.

Conclusions: TIC has only moderate sensitivity after pre-operative selection with axillary ultrasound (+/- FNAC). A high proportion of patients with false-negative TIC results have micrometastases and this appears to affect their ongoing management.

AUDIT OF PERFORMANCE OF DAY CASE SURGICAL UNIT IN A DISTRICT GENERAL HOSPITAL

M.J. Akbar¹, S. Mehmood², N. Qayyum¹, O.E. Klimach¹. ¹Glen Clwyd Hospital Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, Rhyl, Clwyd, United Kingdom; ²Academic Surgical Unit, Castle Hill Hospital, Hull and East Yorkshire NHS Trust, Hull, United Kingdom

Aims: To evaluate the performance of Day Case Unit (DCU) against the recommendation by the British Association of Day Surgery (BADS).

Methods: A retrospective audit of DCU for three surgical procedures over one year; Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy (LC), Primary Inguinal Hernia Repair (PIHR) and Primary Varicose Vein Surgery (PVVS). Procedure to be done as day case in recommendation by BADS; LC = 90%, PIHR = 90% and PVVS = 100%. The day case was defined as patient discharge within 23 hours and 59 minutes.

Results: 826 cases were listed in DCU, 6% (48/826) cancelled therefore 778 included in the analysis. Procedures performed: LC 28% (n = 222), PIHR 38% (n = 294) and PVVS 34% (n = 262). Procedure performed as day case; LC 79% (176/222), PIHR 90% (265/294) and PVVS 97% (256/262). Commonest reason for cancellation was patient did not arrive (23%, n = 11), other reasons were theatre list over run 16% (n = 8), bed not available 13% (n = 6), cancelled by anaesthetist 13% (n = 6), unfit for surgery 10% (n = 5), emergency work 10% (n = 5) and miscellaneous 15% (n = 7).

Conclusions: The performance of DCU at this hospital is comparable to the recommendation by BADS. Further improvement is achievable by careful planning while listing the patients and by pre-operative assessment of all patients.

IMPLICATIONS OF POST OPERATIVE CHEST INFECTIONS AND UNEXPECTED RETURNS TO INTENSIVE CARE UNIT FOLLOWING OESOPHAGECTOMY FOR CANCER

M.A. Javed, F. Atherton, G. Khera, S. Ball, N. Howes, M. Hartley, M. Shackloth, R. Page, C. Magee. Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital

Introduction: Oesophageal cancer has poor outcomes. Work has demonstrated that post-operative complications particularly chest infections following oesophagectomy can reduce long-term survival, presumably through disrupted immunological surveillance. We investigated whether an unexpected return to ITU or documented chest infection were associated with poorer survival following oesophagectomy.

Methods: The setting is a collaborative cardiac-thoracic-upper GI unit. All patients who underwent oesophageal resection for cancer from 2002–2008 were included. Univariate and multivariate analyses were performed.

Results: 313 patients were identified with overall 5-year survival of 37%. In-hospital mortality was greater in patients with chest infection and unexpected returns to ITU ($p < 0.001$). On univariate analysis there was a trend for chest infection to be associated with poorer survival ($p = 0.054$). On multivariate analysis predictors of poorer survival were T stage, N stage ($p < 0.001$) and also the presence of chest infection ($p = 0.034$). However, following exclusion of in-patient deaths a difference in overall survival following a chest infection or unexpected return could not be demonstrated ($p = 0.791$ and $p = 0.465$).

Conclusions: The presence of pneumonia following oesophagectomy appears to reduce overall survival through short-term effects (i.e. in patient mortality). In contrast to published data we were unable to demonstrate any adverse survival effects following chest infection or return to ITU.

THE FEASIBILITY OF DEFERRED CHOLECYSTECTOMY IN ELDERLY PATIENTS WITH OBSTRUCTIVE GALLSTONE DISEASE (OGSD) FOLLOWING SUCCESSFUL ENDOSCOPIC RETROGRADE CHOLANGIOPANCREATOGRAPHY (ERCP) – A COMPARATIVE OBSERVATIONAL ANALYSIS

Marta Sochaj, Edmund Leung, Nara Manimaran, Marcelino Yazbek-Hanna, James Francombe. Warwick Hospital