

Transanal endoscopic microsurgery - our initial experience

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to describe a single institution's experience with transanal endoscopic microsurgery (TEMS) in patients with benign and malignant rectal tumors.

Material and Method: This was a prospective descriptive survey. Between January 2006 and January 2010, 14 patients underwent transanal endoscopic microsurgery excision of benign (8) or malignant (6) rectal tumors, located 4 to 15 cm from the dentate line. Median age was 59.7 years and the mean follow up was 29 months.

Results: The average tumor size was 3.4 cm, median operating time was 40 min. Median length of hospital stay was 4.35 days. During the follow-up period, benign tumor recurrence was observed in one patient (7.14%), managed by repeated TEMS. Histologic staging of malignant tumors was T1 (2) and T2 (4). In two patients with inadequate resection margins open radical surgery was performed. One had recurrent disease, which was managed by radical surgery. No cancer-related deaths were observed during the follow-up period. There was no operative mortality. No major postoperative complications were recorded. Anal incontinence persisted for 3 weeks in one patient.

Conclusion: Transanal endoscopic microsurgery excision is a safe and precise technique and should become a procedure of choice for benign rectal tumors and selected early malignant neoplasms.

Key words: transanal endoscopic microsurgery, rectal tumors

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