

Intestinal Obstruction Management in Patients with Advanced Abdominal Neoplasia*

L. Simion^{1,2}, N.D. Straja^{1,2}, M. Alecu^{1,2}, V. Poroch^{3,4}, D. Moşoiu⁵, C. Pantiş⁶, V. Grigorean^{2,7}, E. Brătucu^{1,2}

¹First Surgical Department, "Prof. Dr. Al. Trestioreanu" Institute of Oncology, Bucharest, Romania

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

³Faculty of Medicine, "Grigore T. Popa" University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Iaşi, Romania

⁴Palliative Care Unit, Regional Institute of Oncology, Iaşi, Romania

⁵Faculty of Medicine, Transilvania University, Braşov, Romania

⁶Department of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care, "Prof. Dr. Al. Trestioreanu" Institute of Oncology, Bucharest, Romania

⁷Surgical Clinic, "Bagdasar-Arseni" Hospital, Bucharest, Romania

Abstract

Background: The present study describes the difficulties encountered in the diagnostic process and treatment of intestinal obstruction developed by patients with advanced abdominal neoplasia.

Methods: This unicentric and retrospective study evaluates patients suffering from intestinal occlusion operated on at the First Surgical Clinic of the Oncology Institute in Bucharest, over a period of 4 years (2010 – 2013). Of these, 61 cases in which the occlusion occurred on the background of an advanced abdominal neoplasia were selected. We considered as advanced those cases of abdominal cancer where curative oncologic treatment is no longer possible due to the evolution stage.

Results: The random selection of the study period, the introduction of all the patients identified with this type of pathology, as well as the concentration of advanced abdominal neoplasia at the Oncology Institute in Bucharest are the elements that allow us to state that the results of this study are representative. Particularities related to the clinical aspects of the intestinal occlusion in these patients, as well as difficulties in establishing the correct diagnosis were encountered. Surgical cure of the occlusion, with palliative aim of course, was possible in only 47 cases (representing 77.05%).

Conclusions: A standard treatment course cannot be devised for this type of patients. Palliative care, indispensable in cases of advanced neoplastic disease, remains the sole therapeutic method available for patients with no surgical cure for the obstruction. The main objective, for the entire study lot, was to ensure an as high as possible quality of life, a factor we must bear in mind as often as possible when choosing a surgical solution. Of course, when surgical treatment can be applied, overcoming the occlusive episode prolongs these patients' life and can even allow for other courses of complementary treatment to be undertaken.

Key words: intestinal obstruction, advanced abdominal neoplasia, treatment, palliation

Corresponding author: Nicolae Dan Straja, MD, PhD

First Surgical Department, "Prof. Dr. Al. Trestioreanu" Institute of Oncology

252nd Fundeni Road, sector 2, 022328, Bucharest, Romania

E-mail: lasimion@yahoo.com

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