

Global Cancer Conference & Medicare Summit

September 15-17, 2014 Hyderabad International Convention Centre, India

Role of radiation in multidisciplinary management of rectal cancer

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Worldwide colorectal cancer is the fourth most common cancer. Management of cancer rectum has undergone dramatic changes in the last two decades. Recent trials indicate that a multimodality management approach in rectal cancers will improve outcome than surgery alone. Surgery is the gold standard for primary treatment modality. Despite curative resections a significant proportion of patients develop local recurrence. High local recurrence has led to explore the benefit of postoperative radiotherapy. Patients are selected for adjuvant therapy on the basis of high risk histopathological criteria. Neoadjuvant therapy is associated with tumor downstage, improved respectability and better sphincter preservation options in distal rectal cancers. Studies have demonstrated improvement in both local control and overall survival which has led to a significant impact on current management of rectal cancers. Given the dismal survival rates even with reduced local failure after adjuvant radiotherapy role of chemo radiotherapy in the adjuvant setting was evaluated. The optimum sequence of neoadjuvant modalities and adjuvant chemotherapy has been addressed by various randomised trials. Both short coarse radiotherapy and long coarse chemo radiotherapy are logical treatment options. Advances in radiotherapy techniques are beneficial in sparing surrounding normal tissue and deliver o radiation conforming to the target.

Biography

Sushmita Pathy is Additional Professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Institute Rotary Cancer Hospital at All India Institute of Medical Sciences. She has specific expertise in Gynaeoncology, Gastrointestinal Cancers, Ocular Oncology and Lung Cancer. She has been awarded the prestigious UICC (2001, 2011) and International Agency for Research in Cancer, Lyon (2011) Fellowship. She is also a member of several national and international organizations. Her academic credit includes publications in national and international scientific journals and as reviewer in various scientific journals and UICC panel. She is also actively involved in designing protocols in GI cancers at IRCH. Her research areas include image guided brachtherapy and impact of treatment time in carcinoma cervix, molecular studies in rectal cancers. She has keen interest in Children's Palliative care and established Paediatric Palliative Care Clinic at IRCH.

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