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COMPARISON OF SAFETY AND OUTCOMES BETWEEN ENDOSCOPIC AND SURGICAL RESECTIONS OF SMALL (≤ 5 CM) PRIMARY GASTRIC GASTROINTESTINAL STROMAL TUMORS

Taohong Pang¹, Yan Zhao¹, Qingqing Hu¹, Dekusaah Raymond¹, Weijie Zhang¹, Yi Wang¹, Bin Zhang¹, Shouli Cao¹, Ying Lv¹, Xiaoqi Zhang¹, Tingsheng Ling¹, Yuzheng Zhuge¹, Lei Wang¹, Xiaoping Zou¹, Qin Huang^{1,2*} and Guifang Xu¹

Nanjing University Medical School, China
Harvard Medical School, USA`

Background and aims: Endoscopic resection is increasingly performed for gastric gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST). However, the safety and long-term outcomes remain elusive. We aimed in this retrospective study to compare operative complications and prognosis between endoscopically resected GIST in size of ≤ 5 cm and the surgically resected one.

Methods: In this single-center retrospective study, we compared demographics and clinical outcomes including operative complications postoperative courses, and the R₀ resection rate between the endoscopy (n =268) and surgery (n =141) groups. Only GIST tumors in size of ≤ 5 cm were recruited for this comparison study.

Results: Overall, the mean age of patients was 59.0 years (range: 31.0-83.0). The male-female ratio was 0.68. The most common site of GIST was, in a descending order, the gastric fundus (55%), corpus (27.6%), cardia (10.8%), antrum (6.6%). Compared with the surgery group, GIST tumors in the endoscopy group was significantly smaller (1.69 ± 0.9 cm, compared to 3.20 ± 1.2 cm in the surgery group; $P < 0.001$) in size, shorter postoperative hospital stay (4.66 ± 1.5 days, compared to 8.11 ± 5.0 ; $P < 0.001$), shorter time to first fluids diet (1.94 ± 1.1 days, compared to 4.63 ± 2.6 ; $P < 0.001$), fewer incidence of operative and post-operative complications ($p < 0.05$), and lower hospital costs (20115.4 ± 5113.5 ¥ compared to 43378.4 ± 16795.7 ¥; $P < 0.001$). The R₀ resection rate was significantly lower in the endoscopy (93.3%) than in the surgery (99.3%) groups ($P < 0.01$). In the endoscopy group, 176 (65.7%), 69 (25.7%), 14 (5.2%) and 9 (3.4%) patients were found to be very low, low, intermediate, and high risk, respectively. In contrast, 27 (19.1%), 87 (61.7%), 14 (10.0%), 13 (9.2%) patients were found to be very low, low, intermediate, and high risk in the surgery group, respectively. The risk stratification was significantly different between the endoscopy and surgery groups ($P < 0.001$). Among 409 cases, 50 (12.2%) patients were found to be intermediate or high risk. Among 50 patients, only 20 patients received adjuvant therapy with imatinib after resection. Seven of the 20 patients took imatinib 1 to 3 months because of its side effects and high costs. However, during 33.5 months of follow-up, no local or distant tumor recurrence was observed, and two patients were died owe to other disease in surgery group.

Conclusions: Endoscopic resection of selected gastric GISTs (≤ 5 cm) is feasible and safe and is associated with a better intraoperative outcome and an equal postoperative course compared with surgery group.

13852293376@163.com