

RESEARCH

Open Access



Cytoreduction plus hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy for peritoneal carcinomatosis in colorectal cancer patients: a single-center cohort study

Leonardo Solaini^{1,2}, Fabrizio D'Acapito¹, Alessandro Passardi^{3*}, Massimo Framarini¹, Francesca Tauceri¹, Daniela Di Pietrantonio¹, Giovanni Luca Frassinetti³, Andrea Casadei Gardini³, Alessandro Cucchetti^{1,2}, Davide Cavaliere¹ and Giorgio Ercolani^{1,2}

Abstract

Background: In this study, we report our experience of cytoreductive surgery plus hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (CRS-HIPEC) in patients with peritoneal carcinomatosis (PC) from colorectal cancer (CRC), focusing on the factors affecting survival.

Methods: All patients with surgically treated PC from colorectal cancer and with no involvement of other organs referred to our institute from March 2005 to December 2017 were included in the analysis.

Results: Thirty-eight patients underwent CRS-HIPEC, and all had a completeness of cytoreduction score of 0 (CC0). The median operating time was 645 min (interquartile range [IQR] 565–710). Five patients (13.1%) had Clavien-Dindo grade > 2 postoperative complications. Median overall survival (OS) was 60 months. In the Cox regression for OS, calculated on the CRS-HIPEC group, the peritoneal cancer index (PCI) > 6 (hazard ratio [HR] 4.48, IQR 1.68–11.9, $P = 0.003$) and significant nodal involvement (N2) (HR 3.89, IQR 1.50–10.1, $P = 0.005$) were independent prognostic factors. Median disease-free survival (DFS) was 16 months. Only N2 (HR 2.44, IQR 1.11–5.36, $P = 0.027$) was a significantly negative prognostic factor for DFS in multivariate analysis.

Conclusions: CRS-HIPEC can substantially improve survival. However, patients with high PCI (PCI > 6) and significant nodal involvement (N2) may not benefit from the procedure.

Keywords: Hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy, Peritoneal carcinomatosis, Colorectal cancer, Cytoreduction, Outcome

Introduction

The peritoneum is the second most common site of metastasis in colorectal cancer (CRC), with an incidence of 25–35% [1, 2]. Peritoneal carcinomatosis (PC) confers a poorer prognosis than other metastatic sites [3, 4]. It has been seen that patients with PC undergoing modern systemic chemotherapy show a median survival of at least 22

months [3]. Cytoreduction plus hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (CRS-HIPEC) [5, 6] represents a further treatment option for patients with PC from CRC, obtaining median survival rates of around 60 months [7–10]. However, studies on CRS-HIPEC are characterized by limited sample sizes, heterogeneous patients, and lack of control groups, resulting in guidelines containing weak recommendations based on low-quality evidence [11].

In the present study, we analyze our experience of CRS-HIPEC in patients with PC from CRC, focusing on the factors influencing survival.

* Correspondence: alessandro.passardi@irst.emr.it

³Department of Medical Oncology, Istituto Scientifico Romagnolo per lo Studio e Cura dei Tumori (IRST) IRCCS, via Maroncelli 40, 47014 Meldola, Italy
Full list of author information is available at the end of the article



Material and methods

Patients with surgically treated PC from CRC without involvement of other organs referred to our institute from March 2005 to December 2017 were included in this analysis. Exclusion criteria were age > 75 years, American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) score > 2, and technically unresectable tumor (massive involvement of hepatic hilum or full-thickness involvement of the diaphragm). The work was reported in line with the Strengthening the Reporting of Cohort Studies in Surgery (STROCSS) criteria [12].

Definitions and treatment protocol

The primary outcome measure was OS which was defined as the time between surgery and last follow-up or death. DFS was defined as shown elsewhere [13]. The definitions of peritoneal cancer index (PCI) and completeness of cytoreduction (CC) score are defined in detail elsewhere [14]. CC0 defines no residual peritoneal lesions within the operative field, CC1 refers to persisting nodules < 2.5 cm after CRS, CC2 indicates nodules between 2.5 and 5 cm, and CC-3 refers to nodules > 5 cm or confluent unresectable tumor nodules. The 7th edition of the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual was used to stage the disease at histological evaluation [15].

All patients underwent CRS-HIPEC in the Department of General and Oncologic Surgery of Morgagni-Pierantoni Hospital, Forlì (Italy). As per protocol, HIPEC was offered to ASA 1-2 patients > 75 years. Peritonectomies were performed using the Sugarbaker technique [6]. Peritoneal washings were performed with intravenous 5-fluorouracil (400 mg/m²) and intraperitoneal oxaliplatin (400 mg/m²) for 30 min at 41.5 °C.

Statistical analysis

An additional analysis was performed comparing patients receiving CRS-HIPEC at our center (tertiary referral hospital) with those who had undergone incomplete cytoreduction (no HIPEC) elsewhere before being referred to

our oncology unit. Consequently, information regarding operative/early postoperative outcomes and the CC score in the latter group was not available. Median and interquartile range (IQR) were used to present continuous variables which were compared using the Mann-Whitney *U* test. Fisher's exact test was performed to compare dichotomous variables. The Kaplan-Meier function was exploited for survival analyses, and differences were evaluated by the log rank test. Cox proportional hazard regression was used to identify independent prognostic factors among the variables included in the analyses (age, sex, site of primitive tumor, PCI, synchronous vs metachronous carcinomatosis, pre-post surgery chemotherapy, synchronous vs metachronous HIPEC, tumor grade, tumor [T], and nodal [N] status). The cutoff for PCI used in the survival analyses was calculated with "Cutoff Finder," as proposed by Budczies et al. [16]. Follow-up time was calculated using the method proposed by Schemper and Smith [17]. MedCalc (MedCalc® for Windows®, version 10.2.0.0; MedCalc Software, Ostend, Belgium) was used to perform the statistical analyses.

Results

Of the 38 patients included in the analysis (Table 1), 25 (65.8%) had undergone preoperative chemotherapy. Surgery in all 38 patients was CC0. Median operating time for CRS-HIPEC was 645 min (IQR 565–710). In the 10 (26.3%) patients treated for synchronous carcinomatosis, resections included 2 right colectomy only, 2 plus rectal resection, 1 plus jejunal resection, 1 plus hysterectoansectomy, 2 rectal resection only, 1 plus jejunal resection, and 1 left colectomy. Five (13.1%) patients had Clavien-Dindo grade > 2 postoperative complications, of whom three required surgical management (one for evisceration, one for ileal perforation, and one for ileocolic anastomosis leak). There were no cases of in-hospital mortality. Median length of hospital stay was 16 days (IQR 14–20).

Median OS was 60 months, and median DFS was 16 months (Fig. 1). Median follow-up was 115 months (IQR 72–149). In Cox regression for OS, PCI > 6 (HR 4.48 IQR 1.68–11.9, *P* = 0.003) and N2 (HR 3.89 IQR 1.50–10.1, *P* = 0.005) were independent prognostic factors (Table 2). Kaplan-Meier curves of differences in survival according to PCI and N status are shown in Fig. 2a, b. The HR of N2 patients with PCI > 6 was 6.82 (IQR 2.23–20.9, *P* = 0.0008) (Fig. 2c). Only N2 (HR 2.44 IQR 1.11–5.36, *P* = 0.027) was a significantly negative prognostic factor for DFS in multivariate analysis (Table 2) (Fig. 3). Twenty-seven (71%) patients relapsed during follow-up, 16 with multiple sites of recurrence. Twenty-two (81.5%) had peritoneal recurrence and 2 of these underwent a second CRS-HIPEC.

CRS-HIPEC vs incomplete cytoreduction

An additional analysis was performed comparing patients submitted to CRS-HIPEC at our center (tertiary

Table 1 Patients' characteristics

Variables	
Age, years—median (IQR)	61 (53–70)
Female, <i>n</i> (%)	20 (52.6)
Site of the primary tumor	
Rectum	5 (13.2)
Right colon	14 (36.8)
Transverse and sigmoid colon	19 (50.0)
Grade ≥ 3, <i>n</i> (%)	16 (42.1)
T3–T4, <i>n</i> (%)	37 (97.4)
N+, <i>n</i> (%)	25 (65.8)
Synchronous carcinomatosis, <i>n</i> (%)	14 (36.8)
Peritoneal cancer index—median (IQR)	5 (2–9)

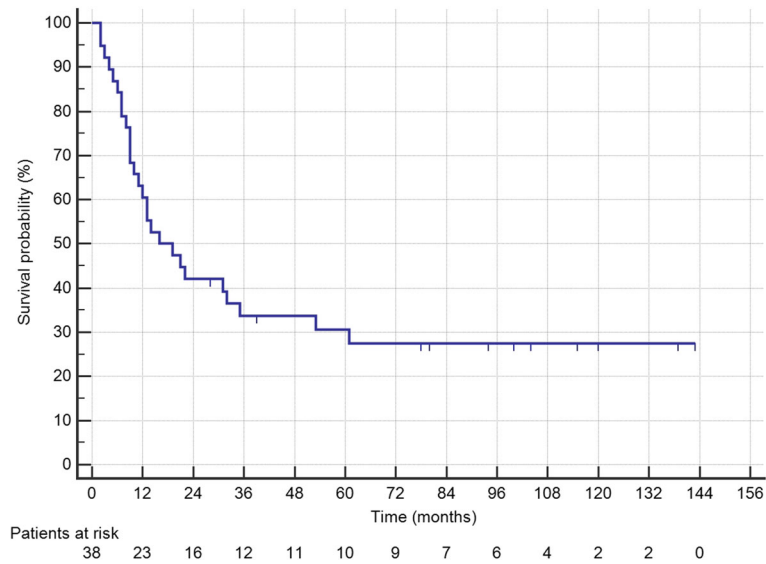


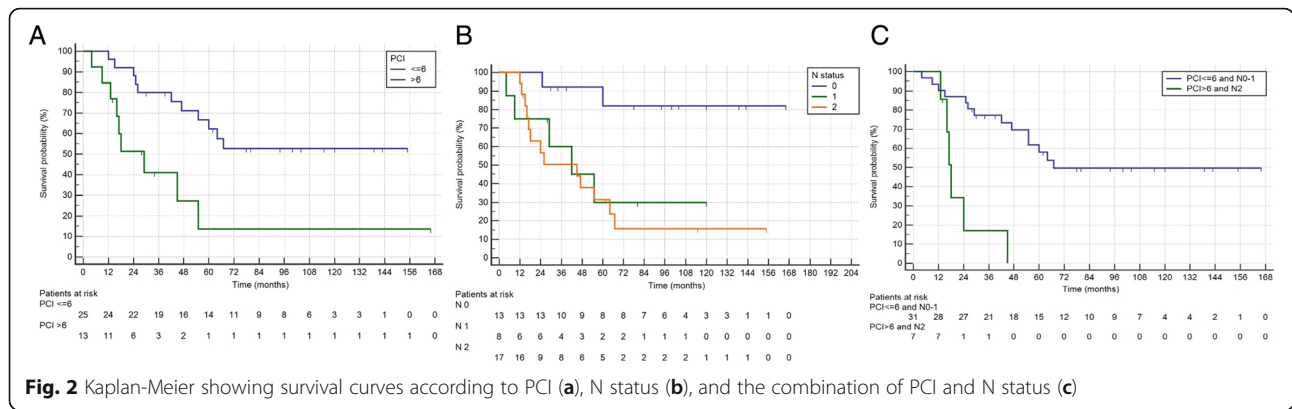
Fig. 1 Kaplan-Meier curves showing the disease-free survival of the CRS-HIPEC group

referral hospital) ($n = 38$) with those who had undergone incomplete cytoreduction and no HIPEC before being referred to our oncology unit ($n = 25$). The CRS-HIPEC group was comparable with the incomplete CRS group in terms of age (median 61 years, IQR 53–70 vs 66 years, IQR 58–68, respectively; $P = 0.382$), rate of female patients (20 [52.6%] vs 14 [56%]; $P = 0.803$), right colon cancer (14 [36.8%] vs 11 [44%]; $P = 0.607$), tumor grade ≥ 3 (16, 42.1% vs 11, 44%; $P = 1.000$), N+ tumors (25 [65.8%] vs 16

[64%]; $P = 1.000$), synchronous carcinomatosis (14 [36.8%] vs 11 [44%]; $P = 0.607$), and median PCI (5 [IQR 2–9] vs 6 [IQR 4–12]; $P = 0.078$). The number of patients with T3–T4 CRC was significantly higher in the CRS-HIPEC group (37 [97.4%] vs 20 [80%]; $P = 0.032$). The median number of lymph nodes harvested was 24 (IQR 15–35) in the CRS-HIPEC group compared to 32 (IQR 23–39) in the incomplete CRS group ($P = 0.097$). Postoperative chemotherapy was performed in 32 (84.2%) CRS-HIPEC patients

Table 2 Cox regression analysis on overall survival and disease-free survival on CCO patients

Variables	OS				DFS			
	Univariate		Multivariate		Univariate		Multivariate	
	HR (95% CI)	P	HR (95% CI)	P	HR (95% CI)	P	HR (95% CI)	P
Age	1.01 (0.96–1.05)	0.737			1.00 (0.97–1.04)	0.705		
Sex (F)	0.77 (0.31–1.83)	0.764			1.20 (0.56–2.56)	0.638		
Right colon cancer	2.51 (0.99–6.31)	0.051			2.37 (1.08–5.23)	0.032		
PCI > 6	3.57 (1.43–8.92)	0.007	4.48 (1.68–11.9)	0.003	2.87 (1.27–6.45)	0.011		
Synchronous carcinomatosis	0.82 (0.34–1.96)	0.652			0.71 (0.33–1.51)	0.380		
Preoperative chemotherapy	1.49 (0.57–3.88)	0.415			1.45 (0.63–3.34)	0.377		
Postoperative chemotherapy	1.59 (0.37–6.88)	0.530			2.71 (0.64–11.5)	0.176		
Synchronous HIPEC	0.50 (0.15–1.70)	0.270			0.49 (0.18–1.28)	0.149		
Postoperative complications Clavien-Dindo > 2	0.33 (0.44–2.45)	0.279			0.48 (0.11–2.04)	0.325		
Tumor grade								
2	1.07 (0.14–8.30)	0.947			1.89 (0.25–14.4)	0.534		
3	1.21 (0.15–9.50)	0.854			2.23 (0.29–16.9)	0.440		
T4 stage	1.13 (0.46–2.76)	0.796			1.04 (0.48–2.26)	0.916		
N stage								
1	6.43 (1.25–33.0)	0.026			1.63 (0.49–5.33)	0.421		
2	8.23 (1.86–36.4)	0.005	3.89 (1.50–10.1)	0.005	3.05 (1.78–7.88)	0.022	2.44 (1.11–5.36)	0.027

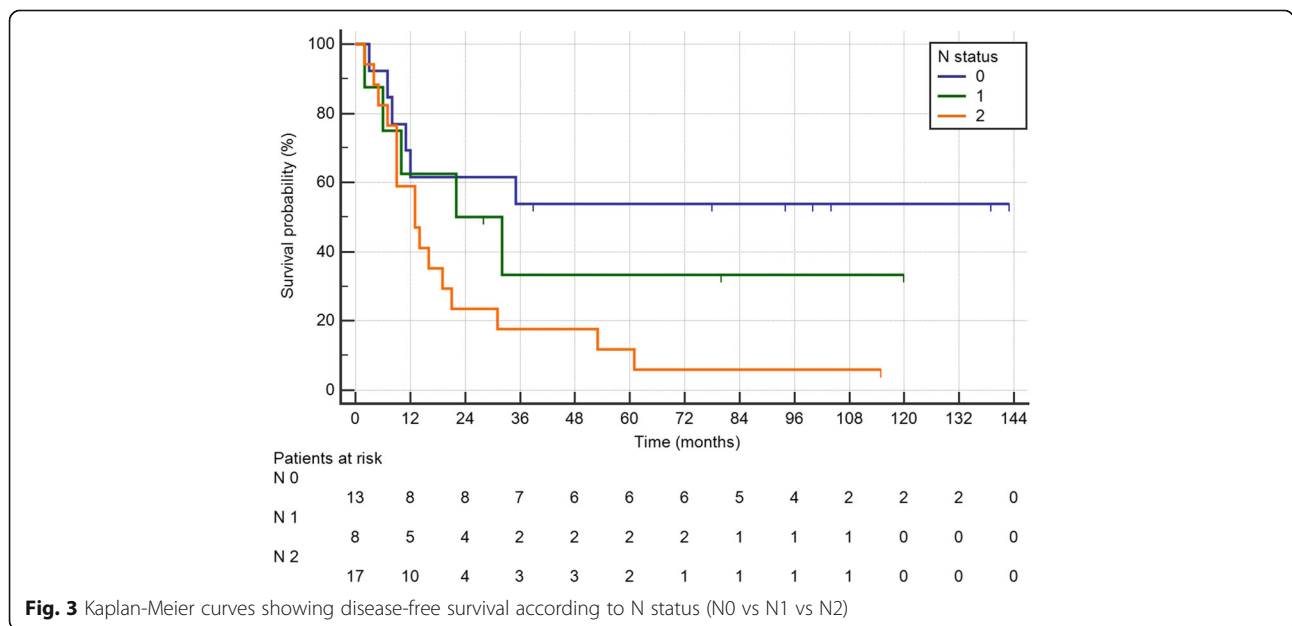


compared to 23 (92%) incomplete CRS patients ($P = 0.461$). Median OS of patients with incomplete CRS (median follow-up 30 months, IQR 27–46) was 16 months, significantly lower than that of patients in the CRS-HIPEC group (Fig. 4).

Discussion

CRS-HIPEC can substantially improve survival in patients with PC from CRC. In our study, median OS of patients undergoing CRS-HIPEC was 60 months, an outcome similar to that reported by others [7–9, 18]. Recently, a meta-analysis [19] including 3179 patients from 15 controlled studies showed that CRS-HIPEC can significantly prolong survival in selected CRC patients with PC with respect to traditional treatments such as palliative surgery alone or systemic chemotherapy (HR = 2.67, 95% CI 2.21–3.23, $P < 0.00001$). Additionally, authors performing a pooled analysis on outcomes from 76 studies (10,036 patients, 16 controlled studies, and 61 non-controlled studies) showed that

the median OS was about 29 months in patients undergoing CRS-HIPEC. Of note, only one randomized [20] controlled trial was published during the 30-year period considered in the metaanalysis. In this trial, Verwaal et al. [20] demonstrated a significantly improved survival in patients undergoing CRS-HIPEC and adjuvant systemic 5-fluorouracil with leucovorin compared to those who received systemic 5-fluorouracil with leucovorin alone. The true benefit of CRS-HIPEC in that study was difficult to interpret as the chemotherapy schemes were outdated compared to current ones. Recently, Cashin et al. [21] designed another randomized controlled trial but were forced to terminate it prematurely because of recruitment difficulties. However, they published results on 48 patients (24 per arm), reporting a significant survival benefit in patients who had CRS-HIPEC compared to those treated with oxaliplatin-based chemotherapy alone. PRODIGE-7 is the most recent trial comparing CRS-HIPEC with CRS in association with systemic chemotherapy [22]. The authors found no significant difference



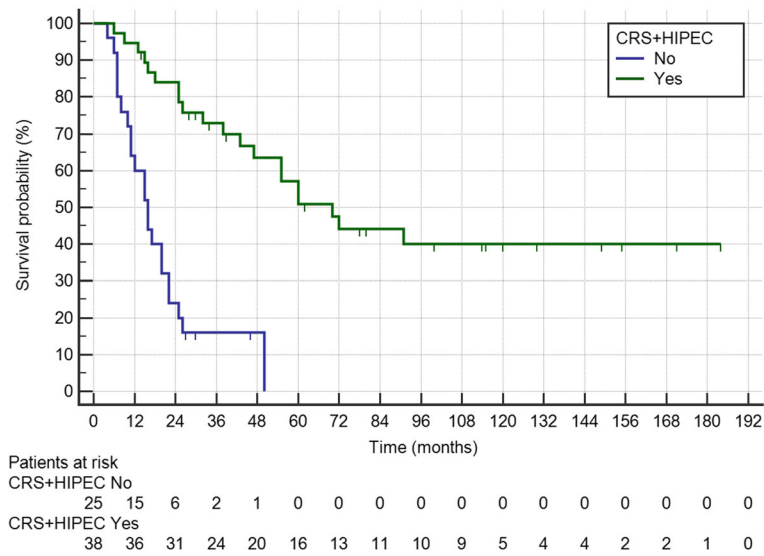


Fig. 4 Kaplan-Meier curves showing survival according to the type of treatment received (CRS-HIPEC vs incomplete cytoreduction)

between groups in terms of OS and progression-free survival, concluding that the addition of oxaliplatin to HIPEC did not influence OS.

It is widely acknowledged that the completeness of cytoreduction is one of the key factors to prolonging survival. In our study, the group of patients undergoing CRS-HIPEC showed an almost fourfold longer median survival than those who had incomplete cytoreduction, a finding also confirmed by other authors [7, 9, 23, 24]. As the probability of achieving a complete macroscopic cytoreduction could be related to the experience of the surgeon [10], we believe that patients requiring CRS-HIPEC should be referred to specialized high-volume centers. This was also recommended in the most recent ESMO guidelines on the topic [11].

As shown in our study, PCI was a significant prognostic factor in patients who underwent CRS-HIPEC. In fact, this variable has been recognized as one of the most important prognostic factors in patients with PC from CRC [7, 23, 25–27]. Goéré et al. found that CRS-HIPEC was not associated with a survival benefit in patients with a PCI score of ≥ 17 when compared with palliative treatment [28]. We found that N2 patients with PCI > 6 had a significantly poorer prognosis with a median survival of 18 months. Taking into account this latter finding, which is very similar to results achieved with modern chemotherapy, we believe that CRS-HIPEC might not be indicated in N2 patients with PCI > 6 . Larger prospective studies are required to confirm these findings and improve patients' selection.

The limitations of our study are linked to its retrospective nature given that selection bias may have affected the entire cohort. Furthermore, the lack of perioperative data in the group of patients with incomplete CRS did not

permit a proper comparison of short-term outcomes of surgery.

Conclusions

CRS-HIPEC can greatly improve survival in CRC patient with PC. Complete cytoreduction (CC0) is required to achieve the best long-term results. Patients with high PCI (PCI > 6) and significant nodal involvement (N2) may not benefit from the procedure.

Abbreviations

CRC: Colorectal cancer; CRS-HIPEC: Cytoreductive surgery plus hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy; DFS: Disease-free survival; DFS: Median disease-free survival; HR: Hazard ratios; OS: Overall survival; PC: Peritoneal carcinomatosis; PCI: Peritoneal cancer index

Acknowledgements

The authors thank Gráinne Tierney and Cristiano Verna for editorial assistance.

Funding

No funding was received for this study.

Availability of data and materials

The datasets used and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Authors' contributions

LS, FDA, MF, and DC contributed to the study design. FDA, AP, FT, DDP, and ACG contributed to the acquisition of data. LS, FDA, AC, FT, DDP, GLF, and GE contributed to the analysis and interpretation. LS, FDA, and AP contributed to the manuscript drafting. LS, AC, and ACG gave statistical advice. All authors critically reviewed the manuscript and approved the final revision.

Ethics approval and consent to participate

This study was approved by the institutional review board; was also conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki and all patients signed the informed consent.

Consent for publication

Not applicable.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Publisher's Note

Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Author details

¹General and Oncologic Surgery, Morgagni-Pierantoni Hospital, AUSL Romagna, via Forlanini 34, 47121 Forlì, Italy. ²Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences, University of Bologna, via Zamboni 33, 40126 Bologna, Italy. ³Department of Medical Oncology, Istituto Scientifico Romagnolo per lo Studio e Cura dei Tumori (IRST) IRCCS, via Maroncelli 40, 47014 Meldola, Italy.

Received: 26 November 2018 Accepted: 18 March 2019

Published online: 27 March 2019

References

- Elferink MA, de Jong KP, Klaase JM, Siemerink EJ, de Wilt JH. Metachronous metastases from colorectal cancer: a population-based study in North-East Netherlands. *Int J Colorectal Dis.* 2015;30:205–12.
- Knorr C, Reingruber B, Meyer T, Hohenberger W, Stremmel C. Peritoneal carcinomatosis of colorectal cancer: incidence, prognosis, and treatment modalities. *Int J Colorectal Dis.* 2004;19:181–7.
- Goere D, Sourrouille I, Gelli M, Benhaim L, Faron M, Honore C. Peritoneal metastases from colorectal cancer: treatment principles and perspectives. *Surg Oncol Clin N Am.* 2018;27:563–83.
- Klaver YL, Simkens LH, Lemmens VE, Koopman M, Teerenstra S, Bleichrodt RP, de Hingh IH, Punt CJ. Outcomes of colorectal cancer patients with peritoneal carcinomatosis treated with chemotherapy with and without targeted therapy. *Eur J Surg Oncol.* 2012;38:617–23.
- Spratt JS, Adcock RA, Muskovin M, Sherrill W, McKeown J. Clinical delivery system for intraperitoneal hyperthermic chemotherapy. *Cancer Res.* 1980;40:256–60.
- Sugarbaker PH. Peritonectomy procedures. *Cancer Treat Res.* 1996;82:235–53.
- Elias D, Gilly F, Boutitie F, Quenet F, Bereder JM, Mansvelt B, Lorimier G, Dube P, Glehen O. Peritoneal colorectal carcinomatosis treated with surgery and perioperative intraperitoneal chemotherapy: retrospective analysis of 523 patients from a multicentric French study. *J Clin Oncol.* 2010;28:63–8.
- Esquivel J, Lowy AM, Markman M, Chua T, Pelz J, Baratti D, Baumgartner JM, Berrl R, Bretcha-Boix P, Deraco M, et al. The American Society of Peritoneal Surface Malignancies (ASPSM) Multiinstitution Evaluation of the Peritoneal Surface Disease Severity Score (PSDSS) in 1,013 patients with colorectal cancer with peritoneal carcinomatosis. *Ann Surg Oncol.* 2014;21:4195–201.
- Glehen O, Gilly FN, Boutitie F, Bereder JM, Quenet F, Sideris L, Mansvelt B, Lorimier G, Msika S, Elias D. Toward curative treatment of peritoneal carcinomatosis from nonovarian origin by cytoreductive surgery combined with perioperative intraperitoneal chemotherapy: a multi-institutional study of 1,290 patients. *Cancer.* 2010;116:5608–18.
- Kuijpers AM, Aalbers AG, Nienhuijs SW, de Hingh IH, Wiezer MJ, van Ramshorst B, van Ginkel RJ, Havenga K, Heemsbergen WD, Hauptmann M, Verwaal VJ. Implementation of a standardized HIPEC protocol improves outcome for peritoneal malignancy. *World J Surg.* 2015;39:453–60.
- Van Cutsem E, Cervantes A, Adam R, Sobrero A, Van Krieken JH, Aderka D, Aranda Aguilar E, Bardelli A, Benson A, Bodoky G, et al. ESMO consensus guidelines for the management of patients with metastatic colorectal cancer. *Ann Oncol.* 2016;27:1386–422.
- Agha RA, Borrelli MR, Vella-Baldacchino M, Thavayogan R, Orgill DP. The STROCSS statement: strengthening the reporting of cohort studies in surgery. *Int J Surg.* 2017;46:198–202.
- Morgagni P, Solaini L, Framarini M, Vittimberga G, Gardini A, Tringali D, Valgiusti M, Monti M, Ercolani G. Conversion surgery for gastric cancer: a cohort study from a western center. *Int J Surg.* 2018;53:360–5.
- Sugarbaker PH. A curative approach to peritoneal carcinomatosis from colorectal cancer. *Semin Oncol.* 2005;32:568–73.
- Edge S, Byrd D, Compton C. *AJCC Cancer Staging Manual* (ed 7) Springer. New York, NY 2010.
- Budczies J, Klauschen F, Sinn BV, Gyorffy B, Schmitt WD, Darb-Esfahani S, Denkert C. Cutoff Finder: a comprehensive and straightforward Web application enabling rapid biomarker cutoff optimization. *PLoS One.* 2012;7:e51862.
- Schemper M, Smith TL. A note on quantifying follow-up in studies of failure time. *Control Clin Trials.* 1996;17:343–6.
- Kuijpers AM, Mirck B, Aalbers AG, Nienhuijs SW, de Hingh IH, Wiezer MJ, van Ramshorst B, van Ginkel RJ, Havenga K, Bremers AJ, et al. Cytoreduction and HIPEC in the Netherlands: nationwide long-term outcome following the Dutch protocol. *Ann Surg Oncol.* 2013;20:4224–30.
- Huang CQ, Min Y, Wang SY, Yang XJ, Liu Y, Xiong B, Yonemura Y, Li Y. Cytoreductive surgery plus hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy improves survival for peritoneal carcinomatosis from colorectal cancer: a systematic review and meta-analysis of current evidence. *Oncotarget.* 2017;8:55657–83.
- Verwaal VJ, van Ruth S, de Bree E, van Sloothen GW, van Tinteren H, Boot H, Zoetmulder FA. Randomized trial of cytoreduction and hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy versus systemic chemotherapy and palliative surgery in patients with peritoneal carcinomatosis of colorectal cancer. *J Clin Oncol.* 2003;21:3737–43.
- Cashin PH, Mahteme H, Spang N, Syk I, Frodin JE, Torkzad M, Glimelius B, Graf W. Cytoreductive surgery and intraperitoneal chemotherapy versus systemic chemotherapy for colorectal peritoneal metastases: a randomised trial. *Eur J Cancer.* 2016;53:155–62.
- Quenet F, Elias D, Roca L, Goere D, Ghouti L, Pocard M, Facy O, Arvieux C, Lorimier G, Pezet D, et al. A UNICANCER phase III trial of hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC) for colorectal peritoneal carcinomatosis (PC): PRODIGE 7. *Journal of Clinical Oncology.* 2018;36:LBA3503.
- Cavaliere F, De Simone M, Virzi S, Deraco M, Rossi CR, Garofalo A, Di Filippo F, Giannarelli D, Vaira M, Valle M, et al. Prognostic factors and oncologic outcome in 146 patients with colorectal peritoneal carcinomatosis treated with cytoreductive surgery combined with hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy: Italian multicenter study S.I.T.I.L.O. *Eur J Surg Oncol.* 2011;37:148–54.
- Shen P, Hawksworth J, Lovato J, Loggie BW, Geisinger KR, Fleming RA, Levine EA. Cytoreductive surgery and intraperitoneal hyperthermic chemotherapy with mitomycin C for peritoneal carcinomatosis from nonappendiceal colorectal carcinoma. *Ann Surg Oncol.* 2004;11:178–86.
- da Silva RG, Sugarbaker PH. Analysis of prognostic factors in seventy patients having a complete cytoreduction plus perioperative intraperitoneal chemotherapy for carcinomatosis from colorectal cancer. *J Am Coll Surg.* 2006;203:878–86.
- Glehen O, Kwiatkowski F, Sugarbaker PH, Elias D, Levine EA, De Simone M, Barone R, Yonemura Y, Cavaliere F, Quenet F, et al. Cytoreductive surgery combined with perioperative intraperitoneal chemotherapy for the management of peritoneal carcinomatosis from colorectal cancer: a multi-institutional study. *J Clin Oncol.* 2004;22:3284–92.
- Simkens GA, van Oudheusden TR, Nieboer D, Steyerberg EW, Rutten HJ, Luyer MD, Nienhuijs SW, de Hingh IH. Development of a prognostic nomogram for patients with peritoneally metastasized colorectal cancer treated with cytoreductive surgery and HIPEC. *Ann Surg Oncol.* 2016;23:4214–21.
- Goere D, Souadka A, Faron M, Cloutier AS, Viana B, Honore C, Dumont F, Elias D. Extent of colorectal peritoneal carcinomatosis: attempt to define a threshold above which HIPEC does not offer survival benefit: a comparative study. *Ann Surg Oncol.* 2015;22:2958–64.

Ready to submit your research? Choose BMC and benefit from:

- fast, convenient online submission
- thorough peer review by experienced researchers in your field
- rapid publication on acceptance
- support for research data, including large and complex data types
- gold Open Access which fosters wider collaboration and increased citations
- maximum visibility for your research: over 100M website views per year

At BMC, research is always in progress.

Learn more biomedcentral.com/submissions

