Mini-laparoscopic Sentinel Node Detection in Endometrial Cancer: Further Reducing Invasiveness for Patients with Early-Stage Disease

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ABSTRACT

Background. Lymphatic mapping and sentinel lymph node (SLN) biopsy have been proposed as a safer and less morbid approach than full lymphadenectomy for patients with early endometrial cancer (EC), through either cervical or corporeal dye injection.^{1–4} The advantage of mini-laparoscopy is a further reduction in the overall surgical trauma for the patient. This video aims to show the feasibility of SLN biopsy using a 3-mm mini-laparoscopic approach.

Methods. A 56-year-old woman with grade 2 endometrioid EC underwent mini-laparoscopic pelvic SLN detection plus extrafascial total hysterectomy and bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy (TLH-BSO). A two-sided superficial and deep cervical injection of indocyanine green (2 mL diluted to 1.25 mg/mL) was used for inoculation before the procedure. A 5.8-mm 0° optical camera with a near-infrared high-intensity light source for detection of fluorescence imaging was inserted through the umbilicus. Two ancillary 3-mm trocars were inserted suprapubically. The procedure was accomplished using only 3-mm instruments.

Results. Neither intraoperative complications nor conversion to conventional laparoscopy or open surgery occurred. The operative time was 60 min, and the estimated blood loss was 50 mL. SLN was detected bilaterally, and removal of the two identified nodes was achieved through meticulous dissection and preservation of the surrounding structures followed by TLH-BSO. No postoperative

complications were registered, and the patient was discharged 24 h after surgery. An SLN ultrastaging exam was negative, and the final pathology showed a International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) stage 1A G2 EC with a 2/21-mm myometrial invasion.

Conclusion. Mini-laparoscopic SLN detection plus TLH-BSO is a feasible procedure that guarantees minimal surgical trauma to selected patients with early EC.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST There are no conflicts of interest.

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