ASO AUTHOR REFLECTIONS

ASO Author Reflections: Is It Truly Necessary to Resect the Thoracic Duct in Esophagectomy for Esophageal Cancer?

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PAST

Thoracic duct (TD) resection has been recommended to harvest mediastinal lymph nodes (LNs) in the adipose tissue surrounding the TD.¹ However, whether TD resection truly contributes to improve the prognosis of esophageal cancer patients is controversial.² This clinical question was the rational for the conduct of our research.³

PRESENT

Our results³ showed that there were no significant differences in prognosis between the TD- resected and TD-preserved groups. In particular, in advanced stage cancers, the same result was confirmed. Moreover, the complication rate relating to TD resection was higher in the TD-resected group. Our study is novel and valuable because there have been no reports regarding the influence of TD resection on the prognosis of esophageal cancer patients.

FUTURE

As a result of these research results, we believe that uniform TD resection should be avoided in esophagectomy for patients with esophageal cancer. Moreover, we further recommend that additional research be conducted in the future regarding which patient characteristics are associated with a requirement for TD resection in this patient population.

DISCLOSURES Taro Oshikiri and Yoshihiro Kakeji have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

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