Laparoscopic total mesorectal excision; experience with 74 patients

Hosseini SV, Bananzadeh A, Ghahramani L and Bahrami F
Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Iran

Introduction: Total mesorectal excision (TME) is the cornerstone of surgical treatment for extraperitoneal rectal cancer. The aim of the present study is to present our experience in 74 cases with laparoscopic TME.

Methods: A retrospective review of 74 cases of laparoscopic TME was performed between 2007 and 2010.

Results: 74 patients with low and middle rectal cancer were treated with laparoscopic TME. 69 patients (93%) with advanced rectal cancer were treated preoperatively with neoadjuvant radiochemotherapy. Distal pathologic margin of all cases was more than 1 cm. Conversion rate was about 4% (3 cases). There were 17 post operative complications including post operative ileus (9 patients), urinary retention (5 patients) and wound infection (3 cases).

Conclusion: Our experience shows that laparoscopic TME is a safe and oncologically acceptable procedure. However, it remains a complex technique, requiring an adequate learning curve.