

160. THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF COLON CANCER

Stela Popa

Scientific adviser: Ghidirim Nicolae, MD, PhD, Professor, *Nicolae Testemitanu* State University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

Background. Colon cancer is a major health problem in people aged over 50 years. In Republic of Moldova the incidence of colon cancer is 15.9 to 100000 population; the mortality is 31.2 to 10000 population. The most important diagnostic method is colonoscopy with biopsy. The majority of the patients undergo surgical treatment, but some of them suffer postoperative complications. Our objective is to evaluate the present situation regarding the diagnosis and treatment of colon cancer in Republic of Moldova.

Materials and methods. In our study were analysed 63 patients with colon cancer. We collected data from the patients' medical records regarding: age, geographic distribution of the patients, localization of the tumor, degree of differentiation, stage, surgical intervention, postoperative complications and outcome.

Results. 87% of the patients were aged over 50 years. 27% of the patients live in Chisinau (urban medium). The tumor is localized in the sigmoid region of the colon in 43% (27 patients), in the transverse-22%, in the descending-14%, in the ascending-11%, in cecum-10%. Most patients are affected by tumors with G2 degree of differentiation-48% (30 patients). The most frequently encountered stages were T4N0M0 (27%), T3N0M0 (19%), T4N1M0 (14%); TisN0M0 was found only in 1 patient (1.58%). Radical surgery was performed in 39 patients (61.9%), while palliative interventions-22 patients (34.9%); exploratory laparoscopy was performed with diagnostic purpose in 2 patients (3.17%). Postoperative complications occurred in 8 of patients (12.7%), out of this 4 patients (6.34%) died in the postoperative period.

Conclusion. Our findings indicate that most frequently were detected in late stages. A great proportion of the patients undergo palliative intervention. 12.7% suffered postoperative complications. Taking into consideration this result, we believe that in order to achieve a better prognosis in patients it would be necessary to take measures aimed at improving screening and earlier diagnosis of colon cancer. This would ensure a high efficiency of the surgical treatment and would decrease the number of postoperative complications.

Keywords: colon cancer, colonoscopy, surgery, stage, postoperative complication.