

Highlights from the Editor

The month of June has brought an increase of the impact factor of 0.3. This is an excellent result and a victory for all of us who have worked to attain this goal. The July-August issue of the journal features another *première*, robotic assisted transanal TME with video. Dr. Atallah had no reservations about giving it the acronym of RATS-TME ^[1]. It does not seem that the robot has a role for now in this increasingly popular procedure. The 2 leading articles are accompanied by editorials ^[2,3]. A prospective randomized trial on 2 different bulking agents shows that all the benefits gained at 6 months are lost at 12 months, with a return to baseline in all patients ^[4]. Solomon and Koh from Sydney, in their editorial, affirm that the poor long-term outcome is the rule and not the exception and that more studies are needed to determine whether these shortcomings are common to all bulking agents ^[2]. Another major article by a French group examines quality of life at 12 months and recurrence and constipation at a mean of 42 months after laparoscopic ventral rectopexy ^[5]. A low recurrence rate (6%) and low de novo constipation rate (7%) is confirmed after a long follow-up. Importantly, this is the first article showing a marked improvement on the quality of life assessed by GIQLI. An editorial by Infantino and Lauretta take stock of the role of laparoscopic ventral rectopexy ^[3]. I have sent it to my American colleagues who do not believe in this approach.

An article I personally found very interesting is by a Danish group, and examines the results of TME after TEM for full thickness local excision of adenocarcinoma, when poor prognostic or unexpected features are found ^[6]. The question “does local excision prior to radical surgery compromise oncologic outcome” is answered again with a “no”. This time it is a comparative study with stage-matched TME looking at local recurrence and intact mesorectum. This type of study paves the way to the increasing use of local excision envisaged for the future.

Finally, TIC expands to two new areas: Pediatric Colorectal Surgery which will be chaired by Prof. van der Zee from Utrecht, and advanced colorectal cancer surgery (exenterations, sacrectomies, intraperitoneal chemo etc.) which will be chaired by Selman Sokmen from Izmir.

Giuseppe Gagliardi

Editor

Techniques in Coloproctology

1) S. Atallah, G. Nassif, H. Polavarapu, T. deBeche-Adams, J. Ouyang, M. Albert, S. Larach (2013) *Robotic-assisted transanal surgery for total mesorectal excision (RATS-TME): a description of a novel surgical approach with video demonstration. Tech Coloproctol DOI: 10.1007/s10151-013-1039-2*

2) C. E. Koh, M. J. Solomon (2013) *Injectable bulking agents for passive faecal incontinence. Tech Coloproctol DOI: 10.1007/s10151-013-1018-7*

3) A. Infantino, A. Lauretta (2013) *Abdominal recto(colpo)pexy for rectal prolapse: is a new era coming? Tech Coloproctol DOI: 10.1007/s10151-013-0989-8*

4) J. Danielson, U. Karlbom, T. Wester, W. Graf (2012) *Efficacy and quality of life 2 years after treatment for faecal incontinence with injectable bulking agents. Tech Coloproctol DOI: 10.1007/s10151-012-0949-8*

5) L. Maggiori, F. Bretagnol, M. Ferron, Y. Panis (2013) *Laparoscopic ventral rectopexy: a prospective long-term evaluation of functional results and quality of life. Tech Coloproctol DOI: 10.1007/s10151-013-0973-3*

6) K. Levic, O. Bulut, P. Hesselfeldt, S. Bülow (2012) *The outcome of rectal cancer after early salvage TME following TEM compared with primary TME: a case-matched study. Tech Coloproctol DOI: 10.1007/s10151-012-0950-2*