

Bing Liu

Dr.med.

Underutilization of surgery and understaging of lymph nodes in periampullary cancer patients

Fach/Einrichtung: Chirurgie

Doktorvater: Prof. Dr. med. Thilo Hackert

Periampullary cancer is a general term denoting a group of tumors originating from the head of the pancreas, the ampulla of Vater, the distal bile duct and the duodenum. While having close anatomical relationship, the different entities vary in their biological phenotype and clinical presentation and outcome. It is difficult to study these rare cancers in a single institution, thus, due to its huge volume of data on patients with cancer, SEER database has been selected as the source of patients' data in the current study. According to the guideline of treatment on periampullary cancer patients, AJCC stage 1 or 2 patients are identified to be candidates for resection, but as shown in this study, there seemed to be a group of patients within stage 1 or 2 periampullary cancer who did not receive surgical treatment, which finally resulted in poor prognosis. In a subset of stage 3 and 4 patients, resecting their primary tumor sites improved overall survival. Additionally, this study for the first time demonstrates the importance of a meticulous lymph node dissection, even in patients without histologically proven LN metastases (N0 patients) for periampullary cancers. Statistical analysis revealed that a number of 16 retrieved LN in N0 patients resulted in an improved survival compared to fewer LN. This cutpoint showed the best performance in this dataset and should be validated in further studies.