**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO: 18157**

**Manuscript Type:****TOPIC HIGHLIGHT**

**2015 Advances in Laparoscopic Surgery**

**Data analyses and perspectives on laparoscopic surgery for esophageal achalasia**

Tsuboi K *et al*. Laparoscopic surgery for esophageal achalasia

Kazuto Tsuboi, Nobuo Omura, Fumiaki Yano, Masato Hoshino, Se-Ryung Yamamoto, Shunsuke Akimoto, Takahiro Masuda, Katsuhiko Yanaga

**Kazuto Tsuboi, Nobuo Omura, Fumiaki Yano, Masato Hoshino, Se-Ryung Yamamoto, Shunsuke Akimoto, Takahiro Masuda, Katsuhiko Yanaga,** Department of surgery, The Jikei University School of Medicine, Tokyo 105-8461, Japan

**Author contributions:** Tsuboi K, Omura N, and Yano F, Hoshino M, Yamamoto SR, Akimoto S, Masuda T, and Kashiwagi H analyzed data; Tsuboi K, Omura N, Yanaga K wrote the paper.

**Conflict- of interest statement:** Drs. Tsuboi, Omura, Yano, Hoshino, Yamamoto, Akimoto, Masuda, Kashiwagi and Yanaga have no conflicts of interest or financial ties to disclose.

**Open-Access:** This article is an open-access article which was selected by an in-house editor and fully peer-reviewed by external reviewers. It is distributed in accordance with the Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial (CC BY-NC 4.0) license, which permits others to distribute, remix, adapt, build upon this work non-commercially, and license their derivative works on different terms, provided the original work is properly cited and the use is non-commercial. See: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

**Correspondence to:** **Kazuto Tsuboi, MD,** Department of Surgery, The Jikei University School of Medicine, 3-25-8, Nishishimbashi, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 105-8461, Japan. kazuto@jikei.ac.jp

**Telephone:** +81-3-34331111

**Fax:** +81-3-54724140

**Received:** April 9, 2015

**Peer-review started:** April 9, 2015

**First decision:** May 18, 2015

**Revised:** May 29, 2015

**Accepted:** August 28, 2015

**Article in press:**

**Published online:**

**Abstract**

In general, the treatment methods for esophageal achalasia are largely classified into four groups, including drug therapy using nitrite or a calcium channel blocker, botulinum toxin injection, endoscopic therapy such as endoscopic balloon dilation, and surgery. Various studies have suggested that the most effective treatment of esophageal achalasia is surgical therapy. The basic concept of this surgical therapy has not changed since Heller proposed esophageal myotomy for the purpose of resolution of lower esophageal obstruction for the first time in 1913, but the most common approach has changed from open-chest surgery to laparoscopic surgery. Currently, the laparoscopic surgery has been the procedure of choice for the treatment of esophageal achalasia. During the process of the transition from open-chest surgery to laparotomy, to thoracoscopic surgery, and to laparoscopic surgery, the necessity of combining antireflux surgery has been recognized. There is some debate as to which type of antireflux surgery should be selected. The Toupet fundoplication may be the most effective in prevention of postoperative antireflux, but many medical institutions have selected the Dor fundoplication which covers the mucosal surface exposed by myotomy. Recently, a new endoscopic approach, peroral endoscopic myotomy (POEM), has received attention. Future studies should examine the long-term outcomes and whether POEM becomes the gold standard for the treatment of esophageal achalasia.

**Key word:** Esophageal achalasia; Laparoscopy; Surgery; Treatment; Review

**© The Author(s) 2015.** Published by Baishideng Publishing Group Inc. All rights reserved.

**Core tip:** Esophageal achalasia is the most common primary esophageal motility disorder and the major symptoms are dysphagia, vomiting, and chest pain. Various studies have suggested that the most effective treatment of esophageal achalasia is surgical therapy and the basic concept of surgical therapy has not changed since Heller proposed esophageal myotomy for the purpose of resolution of lower esophageal obstruction. However, the most common approach has changed from open-chest surgery to laparoscopic surgery. This article reviews the outcomes of surgical procedures for esophageal achalasia from various view points and discusses the problems and prospects of laparoscopic surgery for esophageal achalasia.

Tsuboi K, Omura N, Yano F, Hoshino M, Yamamoto S, Akimoto S, Masuda T, Yanaga K. Data analyses and perspectives on laparoscopic surgery for esophageal achalasia. *World J Gastroenterol* 2015; In press

**INTRODUCTION**

Esophageal achalasia is the most common primary esophageal motility disorder and is histologically characterized by lack of the Auerbach's nerve plexus[1]. It causes loss of esophageal peristalsis and/or a lack of lower esophageal sphincter relaxation during swallowing, which results in esophageal obstruction[2-5]. The major symptoms are dysphagia, vomiting, and chest pain[5]. There are neither racial nor gender differences in its incidence, according to epidemiologic studies. The disease is quite rare with a frequency of approximately 1 in 0.1 million[6,7]. The pathogenesis of esophageal achalasia has not been elucidated, and the pathogenic mechanism is not understood. At the moment, the goal of treatment is not complete resolution of the disease, but rather symptomatic improvement that may significantly affect the patients’ QOL. The treatment methods are largely classified into four groups, drug therapy using nitrite or a calcium channel blocker, botulinum toxin injection, endoscopic balloon dilation, and surgery[8]. Esophageal myotomy was the first surgery that was proposed by Heller in 1913. Thereafter, a combination with cardioplasty was adapted to prevent reflux esophagitis which was sometimes induced by the myotomy[9,10]. Currently, laparoscopic myotomy has been widely performed as a standard treatment approach in many institutions, because it is minimally invasive, achieves esthetic results, and has a defined surgical area[7,8,11-14]. The objective response rate by surgery is good, ranging from 88% to 97%[15-20]. There are some reports on the long-term outcome[21-23], which have demonstrated the safety and effectiveness of the procedure.
 This article reviews the outcomes of surgical procedures for esophageal achalasia from various view points and discusses the problems and prospects of laparoscopic surgery for esophageal achalasia.

**CHANGES IN SURGICAL PROCEDURES FOR ESOPHAGEAL ACHALASIA OVER TIME**

***Open surgery***

Lower esophageal myotomy *via* left thoracotomy for the purpose of improvement of esophageal clearance was first reported by Heller. Heller’s approach involved two incisions of approximately 8-cm made on the anterior and posterior esophageal walls to relieve the esophageal obstruction. The approach was modified by 24. Williams *et al*[24] and the currently used long myotomy with anterior fundoplication was established. While the open-chest surgery was widely used, myotomy *via* laparotomy was also performed in order to avoid the complicated surgical procedures and postoperative wound pain of open-chest surgery. Abir *et al*[25] who studied 18 articles regarding Heller myotomy reported that the response rate in 2680 patients was 83% and concluded that the procedure was very effective. However, since Heller myotomy required myotomy of the gastroesophageal junction to prevent antireflux, there was a risk of postoperative gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD). They reported that the overall incidence of postoperative GERD was 12.3%, but 11 of the 18 articles on surgical treatment of esophageal achalasia reported combination of myotomy with laparoscopic antireflux surgery (LARS). The occurrence of postoperative GERD in patients with antireflux surgery was lower than those in patients without antireflux surgery (10% *vs* 16%). These findings suggested that laparotomic myotomy should be performed along with antireflux surgery.

***Minimally invasive surgery***

Successful laparoscopic cholecystectomy was first reported in 1987. Since then, the surgical procedures for various pathologies have changed from open-chest surgery to laparoscopic surgery. This trend was also observed in the treatment of esophageal achalasia. Laparoscopic procedures have been rapidly adopted due to its minimally invasive nature and better visualization of the surgical area, compared with open-chest surgery and laparotomy. The procedure was performed using the left thoracic approach similar to that of open-chest surgery. Pellegrini *et al*[26] reported that 14 of 17 patients (82%) were satisfied with the surgical outcome that was comparable with that obtained after thoracotomy. The major advantage of thoracoscopic surgery is that long myotomy can be applied to the cranial esophagus. This approach does not require mobilization of the paraesophageal membrane, but it is difficult to reach the anterior wall of the gastric cardia, and an incision cannot reach the oblique muscle due to this lack of sufficient myotomy onto the cardia. Therefore, this approach will not damage the antireflux mechanism and be less likely to cause postoperative reflux esophagitis. However, there are still risks of persistence or relapse of the obstruction sensation of the esophagus[26-28]. Thus, thoracoscopic surgery cases are limited in number whereas laparoscopic surgery is widely used.

Laparoscopic surgery was first reported by Shimi *et al*[29] in 1991. Since then, there are many successful reports not only on the short-term results but also on the long-term surgical outcomes[30,31]. The operating time and duration of postoperative hospital stay are shorter, and the symptomatic improvement is greater by laparoscopic surgery, when compared with thoracoscopic surgery[32].

**COMPARISON OF SURGICAL RESULTS BY APPROACH**

***Open method vs minimally invasive surgery***

Transthoracic approaches include open-chest surgery and thoracoscopic surgery. A retrospective study conducted by Kesler *et al*[33] which compared thoracoscopic myotomy and open-chest myotomy reported that the operating time and intraoperative blood loss were significantly decreased in the thoracoscopic myotomy group (*P <* 0.05, respectively), In addition, the patients in thoracoscopic myotomy was experiencing a shorter hospitalization, which was due to earlier resumption of oral nutrition, earlier removal of chest tube, and less requirement of postoperative analgesic agents. Those results indicated that intra- and post-operative results were better in the patients undergoing thoracoscopic surgery than that in those undergoing open-chest surgery. Furthermore, a study on the long-term outcomes by Pellegrini *et al*[27] showed relief of dysphagia seen in 88% of patients and 66% of patients had regained their original weight. The open-chest surgery was replaced with thoracoscopic surgery due to the minimally invasive closed-chest approach.

The transabdominal approach was also converted to laparoscopic surgery over time in the institutions which performed laparotomic myotomy. Ancona *et al*[34] performed a retrospective study on 17 patients undergoing the laparoscopic Heller-Dor procedure and 17 background-matched patients undergoing laparotomic surgery, and reported that the operating time was longer in the laparoscopic surgery group than that in the other group (178 min *vs* 125 min). In addition, the duration of the postoperative hospital stay and time to reintegrate into society were significantly decreased with the laparoscopic surgery (*P <* 0.0001, respectively). However this study were consisted with short-term examination, and the analysis in long-term were expected. The above-mentioned findings suggested that laparoscopic surgery was more effective than the transabdominal approach as a treatment for esophageal achalasia.　Currently, laparoscopic surgery is a gold standard for treatment of esophageal achalasia. And we are not able to find any shortcoming in laparoscopic surgery for esophageal achalasia without lengthening of operating time if the patients have no contraindication of laparoscopic surgery.

***Thoracoscopic surgery vs laparoscopic surgery***

Since laparoscopic surgery involves minimal invasiveness and yields a similar response rate as compared to that of the open-chest method, minimally invasive surgery has been used as the first-line therapy. Ramacciato *et al*[32] performed a case controlled study to compare the results of thoracoscopic myotomy with laparoscopic myotomy in 16 patients with thoracoscopic surgery group and in 17 patients with laparoscopic surgery (with Dor) group. The results indicated that the operating time and duration of postoperative hospital stay were significantly decreased in the laparoscopic surgery group (*P =* 0.0001 in both), and the frequency of persistence and relapse of a sensation of postoperative obstruction in the esophagus was significantly greater in the thoracoscopic surgery group (38% *vs* 6%, *P =* 0.04). However this study was not enough for analyzing postoperative GERD including pH-metry, and further examination was expected. Patti MG *et al*[30] investigated 8-year experience for minimally invasive surgery for esophageal achalasia and they indicated that the laparoscopic surgery is the better choice for this disease.

**PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH LAPAROSCOPIC ANTIREFLUX SURGERY AFTER ESOPHAGEAL MYOTOMY**

***Laparoscopic myotomy only vs laparoscopic myotomy with fundoplication***

The majority of the previous studies reached the consensus that laparoscopic surgery was the most suitable surgical procedure for esophageal achalasia[35]. One of the advantages of the transabdominal approach is that myotomy can be sufficiently extended to the gastric side[32], but the approach may induce postoperative gastroesophageal reflux. Several studies have been performed to validate whether laparoscopic myotomy alone or in combination therapy with antireflux surgery should be performed (Table 1)[10,36-39]. The observation period ranged from 6 to 96 mo but the postoperative improvement in the loss of the obstructive sensation was good, ranging from 70% to 100%. Thus, all of the studies showed no significant difference in symptomatic improvement between the groups. Nevertheless, the incidence of postoperative GERD symptoms tended to be higher when laparoscopic myotomy was performed alone, which suggested that cardioplasty was essential for prevention of gastroesophageal reflux.

***Laparoscopic myotomy with Dor fundoplication vs laparoscopic myotomy with other types of fundoplication***

A combination of laparoscopic myotomy and antireflux surgery may be desirable for treatment of esophageal achalasia, but it is still controversial which type of antireflux surgery should be performed. Many institutions in the world seem to select the Dor fundoplication, but the Nissen fundoplication and the Toupet fundoplication have also been performed. Previous studies mainly compared the Dor fundoplication with other types of fundoplications (Table 2)[40-43]. All types of antireflux surgery showed similar symptomatic improvements and a high response rate, but the incidence rate of postoperative GERD was slightly greater in the patients undergoing the Dor fundoplication. However, there was no statistically significant difference.

The 2012 guidelines of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES)[44] also strongly recommended a combination of laparoscopic myotomy with antireflux surgery. However, the guidelines declined to say which type of antireflux surgery should be performed but they did state that circumferential fundoplication should be avoided because of the risk of persistence and relapse of the postoperative obstructive sensation of the esophagus. In general, the previous studies indicated that the Toupet fundoplication had a slightly higher antireflux result, but there was no definite conclusion. There was a report that diverticula developed in the esophageal myotomy site when esophageal myotomy using the Toupet fundoplication was not sufficiently extended to the gastric side[45], which suggested that the Dor fundoplication which completely wraps the exposed mucosa should be performed.

**COMPARISON BETWEEN SURGICAL PROCEDURES AND OTHER FUNDOPLICATION APPROACHES**

***Esophageal myotomy vs PD***

Endoscopic balloon dilation is an effective treatment for esophageal achalasia[46,47]. The procedure was proposed by Vantrappen *et al*[48] in 1971 for the first time, and the response rate is currently 80%-90%[49]. However, a long-term follow-up study indicated that 60% of the patients had relapse and needed redilation[50]. Furthermore, the incidence of esophageal perforation after the procedure was not high, ranging from 0.5% to 5%, but 50% or more of these patients with perforations required emergency surgery. These patients are at the greatest disadvantages for this procedure[50,51]. In cases where patients had a previous history of balloon dilation, scar formation and other tissue injury that possibly occurred during the recovery process from submucosal hemorrhage may cause detachment and myotomy of the esophagus in the abdomen[52-54]. We studied whether a history of dilation influences surgical outcome and reported that there was no difference between those with and without previous PD in the operating time, perioperative blood loss, incidence rate of mucosal perforation during myotomy, and rate of postoperative symptomatic improvement[55].

There are many studies comparing the therapeutic effects of PD and laparoscopic myotomy, and Table 3 shows representative studies[56-59]. The duration of observation ranged from 3 mo to 5 years, and the rate of symptomatic improvement was greater with laparoscopic surgery, which indicated that laparoscopic surgery was strongly recommended to the patients with esophageal achalasia.

***Esophageal myotomy vs botulinum toxin injection***

The botulinum toxin inhibits release of acetylcholine from nerve terminals. Injection of botulinum toxin into the lower esophageal sphincter of patients with esophageal achalasia enables muscle relaxation and eases the passage of food into the esophagus. Since a significant symptomatic improvement was observed in patients with esophageal achalasia on short-term outcome in a placebo-controlled trial for one week, the therapy in now an effective treatment for esophageal achalasia[60]. However, the persistence of the therapeutic effect varied depending on the patient. A long-term study indicated that the response rate of patients undergoing botulinum toxin injection was approximately 65%. The relatively greater effect was observed in elderly patients and in patients with an advanced type of esophageal achalasia, and the effect lasted approximately 1.3 years[61]. Zaninotto *et al*[62] performed a randomized controlled trial in 80 patients with esophageal achalasia to compare the therapeutic effects of laparoscopic myotomy and botulinum toxin injection. The results demonstrated that laparoscopic myotomy was safer, and the 6-month post-treatment evaluation showed that the response rate was greater in laparoscopic myotomy compared with that in botulinum toxin injection (82% *vs* 66%, *P <* 0.05). Another evaluation after 2 years showed that the symptomatic improvement effect was seen in 87.5% of the laparoscopic myotomy group and in 34% of the botulinum toxin injection group. The long-term outcome of botulinum toxin injection was not successful enough, similar to dilation therapy, but the injection therapy may be effective in treating the patients who are not a candidate for either dilation or surgical procedures due to reduced daily activities (ADL).

***Esophageal myotomy vs per oral endoscopic myotomy***

Recently, a new treatment for esophageal achalasia, per oral endoscopic myotomy (POEM), has been introduced[63] and has received attention. The method is an adaptation of the natural orifice transluminal endoscopic surgery (NOTES) in the mediastinum, and has come to use in a small number of medical institutions[64]. This method is based on a lower esophageal sphincter (LES) myotomy in a porcine survival model which was performed for the first time in 2007[65]. POEM is quite novel and only a few comparative studies on the short-term outcome have been completed. Table 4 shows representative results[66,67]. There was no difference in the operating time and in the incidence of perforation between the two groups, but the incidence of postoperative GERD symptoms was slightly greater in the POEM group. Furthermore, Teitelbaum *et al*[68] performed the gastroesophageal junction distensibility measurements with a functional lumen imaging probe (FLIP) during laparoscopic myotomy with either cardioplasty or POEM on 25 patients with esophageal achalasia, and obtained similar results.

The long-term outcome of the new treatment method should be evaluated, but the short-term outcome was excellent, and the procedure was less invasive than laparoscopic surgery. Also in terms of a better esthetic outcome, the new procedure may have a higher potential. Future studies should evaluate the incidence of postoperative GERD and the therapeutic effects.

**PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF LAPAROSCOPIC SURGERY**

Laparoscopic surgery for esophageal achalasia provides greater symptomatic improvement but some patients have a poor outcome. Such poor response to laparoscopic surgery may mainly be caused by the surgeon’s lack of technical skills, including insufficient esophageal myotomy, an overtight wrap, a loose wrap, and development of postoperative reflux esophagitis due to absence of cardioplasty[69,70]. Some studies have been performed to detect potential factors relating to the patients’ background and pathology. Iqbal *et al*[71] compared 67 patients whose symptoms were improved and 15 patients whose symptom were not improved, and reported that the effect of surgery was more beneficial in patients with a short disease duration and in patients without a previous history of botox injection. Torquati *et al*[72] performed a comparison study in 200 patients undergoing laparoscopic Heller myotomy, including 170 responders and 30 non-responders. The preoperative manometry showed that the LES pressure was significantly greater in the responders than that in the non-responders, and the patients with a LES pressure > 35 mmHg had more than 21 times the likelihood to achieve excellent dysphagia relief after myotomy as compared with those with a LES pressure ≤ 35 mmHg when the cutoff value was set at 35 mmHg for the LES pressure.

Patients who did not go into complete remission after the primary surgery or those who suffered from a relapse during the follow-up received the redo surgery at some medical institutions (Table 5)[71,73-76]. The rate of mucosal perforation was relatively high, ranging from 4.7 to 30%, but the patient satisfaction was 40 to 90%, which suggested that the redo surgery might need to be performed in highly experienced medical institutions for the purpose of QOL improvement.

High resolution manometry (HRM), which was recently introduced, is equipped with strong diagnostic capabilities in esophageal dysmotility. The pathology of esophageal achalasia is classified into Types 1 to III based on the level of esophageal motility. Several studies evaluated the treatment outcome by Type, and the analysis found that Type II had the greatest therapeutic response, followed by Type I and then Type III[77,78]. Salvador *et al*[79] reported that the response of myotomy to esophageal achalasia Type I, II, and III was 85.4%, 95.3%, and 69.4%, respectively. According to the above-mentioned findings, treatment of Type III esophageal achalasia should be further studied and include a new treatment approach.

As to laparoscopic surgery for esophageal achalasia, a single incision and reduced port surgery focusing on the esthetic aspect[80] has widely been used, especially in high volume centers (Table 6)[81,82]. According to the report by Ross *et al*[83], many studies reported that the learning curve of the laparoscopic surgery was 20 operations, but it might be easier to master the technique if the surgeons have had prior experience with conventional laparoscopic Heller myotomy (Lap-Heller). According to reports by two high volume centers that treat esophageal achalasia, the symptomatic improvement rate was similar to that by conventional methods, and no patients were converted to lap-Heller, which suggested that the outcome was sufficiently acceptable. In the future, younger patients and female patients with esophageal achalasia may prefer laparoscopic surgery, and such a surgical procedure will likely be widely used.

In general, esophageal achalasia is considered as a premalignant condition for esophageal squamous cell carcinoma, and the risk of developing the cancer might be 140-times greater than that in the general population[84]. Esophageal achalasia might be caused by either saburra in the esophagus due to decreased clearance of the lower esophagus or chronic exposure of saliva to the esophageal mucosa[84,85]. Some patients developed esophageal squamous cell carcinoma during the long follow-up after surgery [86]. Therefore, even after the symptoms are improved by surgery, follow-up by periodic upper gastrointestinal endoscopy is required.

**CONCLUSION**

Since laparoscopic Heller myotomy was reported by Heller as the first-line surgical therapy for esophageal achalasia, myotomy has been modified in various ways for the last 100 years. At the moment, there is no room for doubt that laparoscopic myotomy has become the gold standard for treatment of achalasia throughout the world. However, the current surgical therapy does not provide a complete resolution of esophageal achalasia. The therapy achieves successful symptomatic relief but there is still a need for more improvement. It is expected that measures against the technical problems that have been pointed out by the previous studies lead to the development of a new approach. Additionally, further studies might provide guidelines for treatment based on various factors.

**REFERENCES**

1 **O'Neill OM**, Johnston BT, Coleman HG. Achalasia: a review of clinical diagnosis, epidemiology, treatment and outcomes. *World J Gastroenterol* 2013; **19**: 5806-5812 [PMID: 24124325 DOI: 10.3748/wjg.v19.i35.5806]

2 **Achkar E**. Achalasia. *Gastroenterologist* 1995; **3**: 273-288 [PMID: 8775090]

3 **Uribe P**, Csendes A, Larrain A, Ayala M. Motility studies in fifty patients with achalasia of the esophagus. *Am J Gastroenterol* 1974; **62**: 333-336 [PMID: 4432846]

4 **Vaezi MF**, Richter JE. Diagnosis and management of achalasia. American College of Gastroenterology Practice Parameter Committee. *Am J Gastroenterol* 1999; **94**: 3406-3412 [PMID: 10606295 DOI: 10.1111/j.1572-0241.1999.01639.x]

5 **Reynolds JC**, Parkman HP. Achalasia. *Gastroenterol Clin North Am* 1989; **18**: 223-255 [PMID: 2668168]

6 **Mayberry JF**. Epidemiology and demographics of achalasia. *Gastrointest Endosc Clin N Am* 2001; **11**: 235-48, v [PMID: 11319059]

7 **Podas T**, Eaden J, Mayberry M, Mayberry J. Achalasia: a critical review of epidemiological studies. *Am J Gastroenterol* 1998; **93**: 2345-2347 [PMID: 9860390 DOI: 10.1111/j.1572-0241.1998.00686.x]

8 **Spiess AE**, Kahrilas PJ. Treating achalasia: from whalebone to laparoscope. *JAMA* 1998; **280**: 638-642 [PMID: 9718057 DOI: 10.1001/jama.280.7.638]

9 **Bonavina L**, Nosadini A, Bardini R, Baessato M, Peracchia A. Primary treatment of esophageal achalasia. Long-term results of myotomy and Dor fundoplication. *Arch Surg* 1992; **127**: 222-26; discussion 227 [PMID: 1540102 DOI: 10.1001/archsurg.1992.01420020112016]

10 **Richards WO**, Torquati A, Holzman MD, Khaitan L, Byrne D, Lutfi R, Sharp KW. Heller myotomy versus Heller myotomy with Dor fundoplication for achalasia: a prospective randomized double-blind clinical trial. *Ann Surg* 2004; **240**: 405-12; discussion 412-5 [PMID: 15319712 DOI: 10.1097/01.sla.0000136940.32255.51]

11 **Patient Care Committee, Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract**. Esophageal achalasia. SSAT patient care guidelines. *J Gastrointest Surg* 2004; **8**: 367-368 [PMID: 15115006]

12 **Pechlivanides G**, Chrysos E, Athanasakis E, Tsiaoussis J, Vassilakis JS, Xynos E. Laparoscopic Heller cardiomyotomy and Dor fundoplication for esophageal achalasia: possible factors predicting outcome. *Arch Surg* 2001; **136**: 1240-1243 [PMID: 11695966 DOI: 10.1001/archsurg.136.11.1240]

13 **Ancona E**, Peracchia A, Zaninotto G, Rossi M, Bonavina L, Segalin A. Heller laparoscopic cardiomyotomy with antireflux anterior fundoplication (Dor) in the treatment of esophageal achalasia. *Surg Endosc* 1993; **7**: 459-461 [PMID: 8211631]

14 **Tsuboi K**, Omura N, Yano F, Kashiwagi H, Yanaga K. Results after laparoscopic Heller-Dor operation for esophageal achalasia in 100 consecutive patients. *Dis Esophagus* 2009; **22**: 169-176 [PMID: 19018850 DOI: 10.1111/j.1442-2050.2008.00891.x]

15 **Csendes A**, Braghetto I, Burdiles P, Korn O, Csendes P, Henríquez A. Very late results of esophagomyotomy for patients with achalasia: clinical, endoscopic, histologic, manometric, and acid reflux studies in 67 patients for a mean follow-up of 190 months. *Ann Surg* 2006; **243**: 196-203 [PMID: 16432352 DOI: 10.1097/01.sla.0000197469.12632.e0]

16 **Fernández AF**, Martínez MA, Ruiz J, Torres R, Faife B, Torres JR, Escoto CM. Six years of experience in laparoscopic surgery of esophageal achalasia. *Surg Endosc* 2003; **17**: 153-156 [PMID: 12399873 DOI: 10.1007/s00464-002-8576-5]

17 **Frantzides CT**, Moore RE, Carlson MA, Madan AK, Zografakis JG, Keshavarzian A, Smith C. Minimally invasive surgery for achalasia: a 10-year experience. *J Gastrointest Surg* 2004; **8**: 18-23 [PMID: 14746831]

18 **Hunter JG**, Richardson WS. Surgical management of achalasia. *Surg Clin North Am* 1997; **77**: 993-1015 [PMID: 9347828 DOI: 10.1016/S0039-6109(05)70602-2]

19 **Payne WS**. Heller's contribution to the surgical treatment of achalasia of the esophagus. 1914. *Ann Thorac Surg* 1989; **48**: 876-881 [PMID: 2688583]

20 **Rosemurgy A**, Villadolid D, Thometz D, Kalipersad C, Rakita S, Albrink M, Johnson M, Boyce W. Laparoscopic Heller myotomy provides durable relief from achalasia and salvages failures after botox or dilation. *Ann Surg* 2005; **241**: 725-33; discussion 733-5 [PMID: 15849508 DOI: 10.1097/01.sla.0000160702.31452.d5]

21 **Bessell JR**, Lally CJ, Schloithe A, Jamieson GG, Devitt PG, Watson DI. Laparoscopic cardiomyotomy for achalasia: long-term outcomes. *ANZ J Surg* 2006; **76**: 558-562 [PMID: 16813618 DOI: 10.1111/j.1445-2197.2006.03784.x]

22 **Ferulano GP**, Dilillo S, D'Ambra M, Lionetti R, Brunaccino R, Fico D, Pelaggi D. Short and long term results of the laparoscopic Heller-Dor myotomy. The influence of age and previous conservative therapies. *Surg Endosc* 2007; **21**: 2017-2023 [PMID: 17705085 DOI: 10.1007/s00464-007-9506-3]

23 **Jeansonne LO**, White BC, Pilger KE, Shane MD, Zagorski S, Davis SS, Hunter JG, Lin E, Smith CD. Ten-year follow-up of laparoscopic Heller myotomy for achalasia shows durability. *Surg Endosc* 2007; **21**: 1498-1502 [PMID: 17623235 DOI: 10.1007/s00464-007-9500-9]

24 **Williams VA**, Peters JH. Achalasia of the esophagus: a surgical disease. *J Am Coll Surg* 2009; **208**: 151-162 [PMID: 19228517 DOI: 10.1016/j.jamcollsurg.2008.08.027]

25 **Abir F**, Modlin I, Kidd M, Bell R. Surgical treatment of achalasia: current status and controversies. *Dig Surg* 2004; **21**: 165-176 [PMID: 15218230 DOI: 10.1159/000079341]

26 **Pellegrini C**, Wetter LA, Patti M, Leichter R, Mussan G, Mori T, Bernstein G, Way L. Thoracoscopic esophagomyotomy. Initial experience with a new approach for the treatment of achalasia. *Ann Surg* 1992; **216**: 291-26; discussion 291-26; [PMID: 1417178]

27 **Pellegrini CA**, Leichter R, Patti M, Somberg K, Ostroff JW, Way L. Thoracoscopic esophageal myotomy in the treatment of achalasia. *Ann Thorac Surg* 1993; **56**: 680-682 [PMID: 8379770]

28 **Maher JW**, Conklin J, Heitshusen DS. Thoracoscopic esophagomyotomy for achalasia: preoperative patterns of acid reflux and long-term follow-up. *Surgery* 2001; **130**: 570-56; discussion 570-56; [PMID: 11602886 DOI: 10.1067/msy.2001.116681]

29 **Shimi S**, Nathanson LK, Cuschieri A. Laparoscopic cardiomyotomy for achalasia. *J R Coll Surg Edinb* 1991; **36**: 152-154 [PMID: 1833541]

30 **Patti MG**, Pellegrini CA, Horgan S, Arcerito M, Omelanczuk P, Tamburini A, Diener U, Eubanks TR, Way LW. Minimally invasive surgery for achalasia: an 8-year experience with 168 patients. *Ann Surg* 1999; **230**: 587-93; discussion 593-4 [PMID: 10522728]

31 **Stewart KC**, Finley RJ, Clifton JC, Graham AJ, Storseth C, Inculet R. Thoracoscopic versus laparoscopic modified Heller Myotomy for achalasia: efficacy and safety in 87 patients. *J Am Coll Surg* 1999; **189**: 164-19; discussion 164-19; [PMID: 10437838 DOI: 10.1016/S1072-7515(99)00094-0]

32 **Ramacciato G**, Mercantini P, Amodio PM, Corigliano N, Barreca M, Stipa F, Ziparo V. The laparoscopic approach with antireflux surgery is superior to the thoracoscopic approach for the treatment of esophageal achalasia. Experience of a single surgical unit. *Surg Endosc* 2002; **16**: 1431-1437 [PMID: 12072992 DOI: 10.1007/s00464-001-9215-2]

33 **Kesler KA**, Tarvin SE, Brooks JA, Rieger KM, Lehman GA, Brown JW. Thoracoscopy-assisted Heller myotomy for the treatment of achalasia: results of a minimally invasive technique. *Ann Thorac Surg* 2004; **77**: 385-91; discussion 391-2 [PMID: 14759402 DOI: 10.1016/j.athoracsur.2003.06.018]

34 **Ancona E**, Anselmino M, Zaninotto G, Costantini M, Rossi M, Bonavina L, Boccu C, Buin F, Peracchia A. Esophageal achalasia: laparoscopic versus conventional open Heller-Dor operation. *Am J Surg* 1995; **170**: 265-270 [PMID: 7661295]

35 **Bello B**, Herbella FA, Allaix ME, Patti MG. Impact of minimally invasive surgery on the treatment of benign esophageal disorders. *World J Gastroenterol* 2012; **18**: 6764-6770 [PMID: 23239914 DOI: 10.3748/wjg.v18.i46.6764]

36 **Campos GM**, Vittinghoff E, Rabl C, Takata M, Gadenstätter M, Lin F, Ciovica R. Endoscopic and surgical treatments for achalasia: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Ann Surg* 2009; **249**: 45-57 [PMID: 19106675 DOI: 10.1097/SLA.0b013e31818e43ab]

37 **Falkenback D**, Johansson J, Oberg S, Kjellin A, Wenner J, Zilling T, Johnsson F, Von Holstein CS, Walther B. Heller’s esophagomyotomy with or without a 360 degrees floppy Nissen fundoplication for achalasia: long-term results from a prospective randomized study. *Dis Esophagus* 2003; **16**: 284-290 [PMID: 14641290 DOI: 10.1111/j.1442-2050.2003.00348.x]

38 **Simić AP**, Radovanović NS, Skrobić OM, Raznatović ZJ, Pesko PM. Significance of limited hiatal dissection in surgery for achalasia. *J Gastrointest Surg* 2010; **14**: 587-593 [PMID: 20033338 DOI: 10.1007/s11605-009-1135-9]

39 **Finley C**, Clifton J, Yee J, Finley RJ. Anterior fundoplication decreases esophageal clearance in patients undergoing Heller myotomy for achalasia. *Surg Endosc* 2007; **21**: 2178-2182 [PMID: 17514394 DOI: 10.1007/s00464-007-9327-4]

40 **Rebecchi F**, Giaccone C, Farinella E, Campaci R, Morino M. Randomized controlled trial of laparoscopic Heller myotomy plus Dor fundoplication versus Nissen fundoplication for achalasia: long-term results. *Ann Surg* 2008; **248**: 1023-1030 [PMID: 19092347 DOI: 10.1097/SLA.0b013e318190a776]

41 **Rawlings A**, Soper NJ, Oelschlager B, Swanstrom L, Matthews BD, Pellegrini C, Pierce RA, Pryor A, Martin V, Frisella MM, Cassera M, Brunt LM. Laparoscopic Dor versus Toupet fundoplication following Heller myotomy for achalasia: results of a multicenter, prospective, randomized-controlled trial. *Surg Endosc* 2012; **26**: 18-26 [PMID: 21789646 DOI: 10.1007/s00464-011-1822-y]

42 **Wright AS**, Williams CW, Pellegrini CA, Oelschlager BK. Long-term outcomes confirm the superior efficacy of extended Heller myotomy with Toupet fundoplication for achalasia. *Surg Endosc* 2007; **21**: 713-718 [PMID: 17332964 DOI: 10.1007/s00464-006-9165-9]

43 **Di Martino N**, Brillantino A, Monaco L, Marano L, Schettino M, Porfidia R, Izzo G, Cosenza A. Laparoscopic calibrated total vs partial fundoplication following Heller myotomy for oesophageal achalasia. *World J Gastroenterol* 2011; **17**: 3431-3440 [PMID: 21876635 DOI: 10.3748/wjg.v17.i29.3431]

44 **Stefanidis D**, Richardson W, Farrell TM, Kohn GP, Augenstein V, Fanelli RD. SAGES guidelines for the surgical treatment of esophageal achalasia. *Surg Endosc* 2012; **26**: 296-311 [PMID: 22044977 DOI: 10.1007/s00464-011-2017-2]

45 **Katada N**, Sakuramoto S, Yamashita K, Shibata T, Moriya H, Kikuchi S, Watanabe M. Recent trends in the management of achalasia. *Ann Thorac Cardiovasc Surg* 2012; **18**: 420-428 [PMID: 23099422 DOI: 10.5761/atcs.ra.12.01949]

46 **Abid S**, Champion G, Richter JE, McElvein R, Slaughter RL, Koehler RE. Treatment of achalasia: the best of both worlds. *Am J Gastroenterol* 1994; **89**: 979-985 [PMID: 8017394]

47 **Katsinelos P**, Kountouras J, Paroutoglou G, Beltsis A, Zavos C, Papaziogas B, Mimidis K. Long-term results of pneumatic dilation for achalasia: a 15 years' experience. *World J Gastroenterol* 2005; **11**: 5701-5705 [PMID: 16237769 DOI: 10.3748/wjg.v11.i36.5587]

48 **Vantrappen G**, Hellemans J, Deloof W, Valembois P, Vandenbroucke J. Treatment of achalasia with pneumatic dilatations. *Gut* 1971; **12**: 268-275 [PMID: 5574797]

49 **Vaezi MF**, Richter JE. Current therapies for achalasia: comparison and efficacy. *J Clin Gastroenterol* 1998; **27**: 21-35 [PMID: 9706766]

50 **Karamanolis G**, Sgouros S, Karatzias G, Papadopoulou E, Vasiliadis K, Stefanidis G, Mantides A. Long-term outcome of pneumatic dilation in the treatment of achalasia. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2005; **100**: 270-274 [PMID: 15667481 DOI: 10.1111/j.1572-0241.2005.40093.x]

51 **West RL**, Hirsch DP, Bartelsman JF, de Borst J, Ferwerda G, Tytgat GN, Boeckxstaens GE. Long term results of pneumatic dilation in achalasia followed for more than 5 years. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2002; **97**: 1346-1351 [PMID: 12094848 DOI: 10.1111/j.1572-0241.2002.05771.x]

52 **Beckingham IJ**, Callanan M, Louw JA, Bornman PC. Laparoscopic cardiomyotomy for achalasia after failed balloon dilatation. *Surg Endosc* 1999; **13**: 493-496 [PMID: 10227950]

53 **Ponce J**, Juan M, Garrigues V, Pascual S, Berenguer J. Efficacy and safety of cardiomyotomy in patients with achalasia after failure of pneumatic dilatation. *Dig Dis Sci* 1999; **44**: 2277-2282 [PMID: 10573374]

54 **Gockel I**, Junginger T, Bernhard G, Eckardt VF. Heller myotomy for failed pneumatic dilation in achalasia: how effective is it? *Ann Surg* 2004; **239**: 371-377 [PMID: 15075654 DOI: 10.1097/01.sla.0000114228.34809.01]

55 **Tsuboi K**, Omura N, Yano F, Kashiwagi H, Kawasaki N, Suzuki Y, Yanaga K. Preoperative dilatation does not affect the surgical outcome of laparoscopic Heller myotomy and Dor fundoplication for esophageal achalasia. *Surg Laparosc Endosc Percutan Tech* 2009; **19**: 98-100 [PMID: 19390272 DOI: 10.1097/SLE.0b013e31819cb127]

56 **Kostic S**, Kjellin A, Ruth M, Lonroth H, Johnsson E, Andersson M, Lundell L. Pneumatic dilatation or laparoscopic cardiomyotomy in the management of newly diagnosed idiopathic achalasia: results of randomized controlled trial. *World J Surg* 2007; **31**: 470-478 [PMID: 17308851 DOI: 10.1007/s00268-006-0600-9]

57 **Novais PA**, Lemme EM. 24-h pH monitoring patterns and clinical response after achalasia treatment with pneumatic dilation or laparoscopic Heller myotomy. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2010; **32**: 1257-1265 [PMID: 20955445 DOI: 10.1111/j.1365-2036.2010.04461.x]

58 **Boeckxstaens GE**, Annese V, des Varannes SB, Chaussade S, Costantini M, Cuttitta A, Elizalde JI, Fumagalli U, Gaudric M, Rohof WO, Smout AJ, Tack J, Zwinderman AH, Zaninotto G, Busch OR. Pneumatic dilation versus laparoscopic Heller's myotomy for idiopathic achalasia. *N Engl J Med* 2011; **364**: 1807-1816 [PMID: 21561346 DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa1010502]

59 **Persson J**, Johnsson E, Kostic S, Lundell L, Smedh U. Treatment of achalasia with laparoscopic myotomy or pneumatic dilatation: long-term results of a prospective, randomized study. *World J Surg* 2015; **39**: 713-720 [PMID: 25409838 DOI: 10.1007/s00268-014-2869-4]

60 **Pasricha PJ**, Ravich WJ, Hendrix TR, Sostre S, Jones B, Kalloo AN. Intrasphincteric botulinum toxin for the treatment of achalasia. *N Engl J Med* 1995; **332**: 774-778 [PMID: 7862180 DOI: 10.1056/NEJM199503233321203]

61 **Pasricha PJ**, Rai R, Ravich WJ, Hendrix TR, Kalloo AN. Botulinum toxin for achalasia: long-term outcome and predictors of response. *Gastroenterology* 1996; **110**: 1410-1415 [PMID: 8613045 DOI: 10.1053/gast.1996.v110.pm8613045]

62 **Zaninotto G**, Annese V, Costantini M, Del Genio A, Costantino M, Epifani M, Gatto G, D'onofrio V, Benini L, Contini S, Molena D, Battaglia G, Tardio B, Andriulli A, Ancona E. Randomized controlled trial of botulinum toxin versus laparoscopic heller myotomy for esophageal achalasia. *Ann Surg* 2004; **239**: 364-370 [PMID: 15075653 DOI: 10.1097/01.sla.0000114217.52941.c5]

63 **Inoue H**, Minami H, Kobayashi Y, Sato Y, Kaga M, Suzuki M, Satodate H, Odaka N, Itoh H, Kudo S. Peroral endoscopic myotomy (POEM) for esophageal achalasia. *Endoscopy* 2010; **42**: 265-271 [PMID: 20354937 DOI: 10.1055/s-0029-1244080]

64 **Friedel D**, Modayil R, Stavropoulos SN. Per-oral endoscopic myotomy: major advance in achalasia treatment and in endoscopic surgery. *World J Gastroenterol* 2014; **20**: 17746-17755 [PMID: 25548473 DOI: 10.3748/wjg.v20.i47.17746]

65 **Pasricha PJ**, Hawari R, Ahmed I, Chen J, Cotton PB, Hawes RH, Kalloo AN, Kantsevoy SV, Gostout CJ. Submucosal endoscopic esophageal myotomy: a novel experimental approach for the treatment of achalasia. *Endoscopy* 2007; **39**: 761-764 [PMID: 17703382 DOI: 10.1055/s-2007-966764]

66 **Hungness ES**, Teitelbaum EN, Santos BF, Arafat FO, Pandolfino JE, Kahrilas PJ, Soper NJ. Comparison of perioperative outcomes between peroral esophageal myotomy (POEM) and laparoscopic Heller myotomy. *J Gastrointest Surg* 2013; **17**: 228-235 [PMID: 23054897 DOI: 10.1007/s11605-012-2030-3]

67 **Ujiki MB**, Yetasook AK, Zapf M, Linn JG, Carbray JM, Denham W. Peroral endoscopic myotomy: A short-term comparison with the standard laparoscopic approach. *Surgery* 2013; **154**: 893-87; discussion 893-87; [PMID: 24074429 DOI: 10.1016/j.surg.2013.04.042]

68 **Teitelbaum EN**, Boris L, Arafat FO, Nicodème F, Lin Z, Kahrilas PJ, Pandolfino JE, Soper NJ, Hungness ES. Comparison of esophagogastric junction distensibility changes during POEM and Heller myotomy using intraoperative FLIP. *Surg Endosc* 2013; **27**: 4547-4555 [PMID: 24043641 DOI: 10.1007/s00464-013-3121-2]

69 **Ellis FH**. Failure after esophagomyotomy for esophageal motor disorders. Causes, prevention, and management. *Chest Surg Clin N Am* 1997; **7**: 477-87; discussion 488 [PMID: 9246398]

70 **Duffy PE**, Awad ZT, Filipi CJ. The laparoscopic reoperation of failed Heller myotomy. *Surg Endosc* 2003; **17**: 1046-1049 [PMID: 12730729 DOI: 10.1007/s00464-002-8570-y]

71 **Iqbal A**, Tierney B, Haider M, Salinas VK, Karu A, Turaga KK, Mittal SK, Filipi CJ. Laparoscopic re-operation for failed Heller myotomy. *Dis Esophagus* 2006; **19**: 193-199 [PMID: 16722998 DOI: 10.1111/j.1442-2050.2006.00564.x]

72 **Torquati A**, Richards WO, Holzman MD, Sharp KW. Laparoscopic myotomy for achalasia: predictors of successful outcome after 200 cases. *Ann Surg* 2006; **243**: 587-91; discussion 591-3 [PMID: 16632992 DOI: 10.1097/01.sla.0000216782.10502.47]

73 **Rakita S**, Villadolid D, Kalipersad C, Thometz D, Rosemurgy A. Outcomes promote reoperative Heller myotomy for symptoms of achalasia. *Surg Endosc* 2007; **21**: 1709-1714 [PMID: 17440784 DOI: 10.1007/s00464-007-9226-8]

74 **Grotenhuis BA**, Wijnhoven BP, Myers JC, Jamieson GG, Devitt PG, Watson DI. Reoperation for dysphagia after cardiomyotomy for achalasia. *Am J Surg* 2007; **194**: 678-682 [PMID: 17936434 DOI: 10.1016/j.amjsurg.2007.01.035]

75 **Loviscek MF**, Wright AS, Hinojosa MW, Petersen R, Pajitnov D, Oelschlager BK, Pellegrini CA. Recurrent dysphagia after Heller myotomy: is esophagectomy always the answer? *J Am Coll Surg* 2013; **216**: 736-43; discussion 743-4 [PMID: 23415553 DOI: 10.1016/j.jamcollsurg.2012.12.008]

76 **Omura N**, Kashiwagi H, Yano F, Tsuboi K, Yanaga K. Reoperations for esophageal achalasia. *Surg Today* 2012; **42**: 1078-1081 [PMID: 22790707 DOI: 10.1007/s00595-012-0204-y]

77 **Pandolfino JE**, Kwiatek MA, Nealis T, Bulsiewicz W, Post J, Kahrilas PJ. Achalasia: a new clinically relevant classification by high-resolution manometry. *Gastroenterology* 2008; **135**: 1526-1533 [PMID: 18722376 DOI: 10.1053/j.gastro.2008.07.022]

78 **Pratap N**, Kalapala R, Darisetty S, Joshi N, Ramchandani M, Banerjee R, Lakhtakia S, Gupta R, Tandan M, Rao GV, Reddy DN. Achalasia cardia subtyping by high-resolution manometry predicts the therapeutic outcome of pneumatic balloon dilatation. *J Neurogastroenterol Motil* 2011; **17**: 48-53 [PMID: 21369491 DOI: 10.5056/jnm.2011.17.1.48]

79 **Salvador R**, Costantini M, Zaninotto G, Morbin T, Rizzetto C, Zanatta L, Ceolin M, Finotti E, Nicoletti L, Da Dalt G, Cavallin F, Ancona E. The preoperative manometric pattern predicts the outcome of surgical treatment for esophageal achalasia. *J Gastrointest Surg* 2010; **14**: 1635-1645 [PMID: 20830530 DOI: 10.1007/s11605-010-1318-4]

80 **Yano F**, Omura N, Tsuboi K, Hoshino M, Yamamoto SR, Kashiwagi H, Yanaga K. Single-incision laparoscopic Heller myotomy and Dor fundoplication for achalasia: report of a case. *Surg Today* 2012; **42**: 299-302 [PMID: 22218875 DOI: 10.1007/s00595-011-0089-1]

81 **Barry L**, Ross S, Dahal S, Morton C, Okpaleke C, Rosas M, Rosemurgy AS. Laparoendoscopic single-site Heller myotomy with anterior fundoplication for achalasia. *Surg Endosc* 2011; **25**: 1766-1774 [PMID: 21487889 DOI: 10.1007/s00464-010-1454-7]

82 . Short-term surgical outcomes of reduced port surgery for esophageal achalasia. *Surg Today* 2015; : [PMID: 25563589 DOI: 10.1007/s00595-014-1109-8]

83 **Ross SB**, Luberice K, Kurian TJ, Paul H, Rosemurgy AS. Defining the learning curve of laparoendoscopic single-site Heller myotomy. *Am Surg* 2013; **79**: 837-844 [PMID: 23896255]

84 **Shaligram A**, Unnirevi J, Simorov A, Kothari VM, Oleynikov D. How does the robot affect outcomes? A retrospective review of open, laparoscopic, and robotic Heller myotomy for achalasia. *Surg Endosc* 2012; **26**: 1047-1050 [PMID: 22038167 DOI: 10.1007/s00464-011-1994-5]

85 **Brücher BL**, Stein HJ, Bartels H, Feussner H, Siewert JR. Achalasia and esophageal cancer: incidence, prevalence, and prognosis. *World J Surg* 2001; **25**: 745-749 [PMID: 11376410]

86 **Sandler RS**, Nyrén O, Ekbom A, Eisen GM, Yuen J, Josefsson S. The risk of esophageal cancer in patients with achalasia. A population-based study. *JAMA* 1995; **274**: 1359-1362 [PMID: 7563560 DOI: 10.1001/jama.1995.03530170039029]

87 **Zaninotto G**, Rizzetto C, Zambon P, Guzzinati S, Finotti E, Costantini M. Long-term outcome and risk of oesophageal cancer after surgery for achalasia. *Br J Surg* 2008; **95**: 1488-1494 [PMID: 18991316 DOI: 10.1002/bjs.6413]

**P-Reviewer:** Chen JQ, Sharma SS, Zhu YL **S-Editor:** Yu J

1. **L-Editor:** **E-Editor:**

**Table 1 Comparison of surgical outcomes between laparoscopic Heller myotomy *vs* laparoscopic myotomy with fundoplication**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Author** | **Year** | **Study design** | **Samples** | **Procedure** | **Follow up (mo)** | **Success** | **Postop-****GERD** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Campos *et al*[36] | 2009 | Meta analysis | 579 | myotomy only | NA | 90**%** | 31**%** |
|  |  |  | 2507 | myotomy + fundoplication | NA | 90**%** | 9**%** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Falkenback *et al*[37] | 2003 | RCT | 10 | myotomy only | 96 | 70**%** | 13**%** |
|  |  |  | 10 | myotomy + fundoplication | 96 | 70**%** | 0.1**%** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Richards *et al*[10] | 2004 | RCT | 21 | myotomy only | 6 | 100**%** | 47.6**%** |
|  |  |  | 22 | myotomy + fundoplication | 6 | 95.5**%** | 9.1**%** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Simic *et al*[38] | 2010 | RCT | 22 | myotomy only | 36 | 100**%** | 9.1**%** |
|  |  |  | 62 | myotomy + fundoplication | 36 | 91.7**%** | 9.7**%** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Finley *et al*[39] | 2007 | Retrospective | 24 | myotomy only | 12 | 100**%** | NA |
|  |  |  | 71 | myotomy + fundoplication | 12 | 98.6**%** | NA |

NA: Not available; GERD: Gastroesophageal reflux disease; RCT: Retrospective cohort study.

**Table 2 Comparison of surgical outcomes between laparoscopic Heller myotomy with Dor fundoplication *vs* laparoscopic myotomy with other fundoplication**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Author** | **Year** | **Study design** | **Samples** | **Fundoplication** | **Follow up (mo)** | **Success** | **postop-GERD** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Rebecchi *et al*[40] | 2008 | RCT | 71 | Dor | 125 | 97**%** | 3**%** |
|  |  |  | 67 | Nissen | 125 | 85**%** | 0**%** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Rawlings *et al*[41] | 2012 | RCT | 36 | Dor | 6 | 91.7**%** | 27.8**%** |
|  |  |  | 24 | Toupet | 6 | 95.8**%** | 16.7**%** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wright *et al*[42] | 2007 | Retrospective | 52 | Dor | 46 | 82.7**%** | NA |
|  |  |  | 63 | Toupet | 45 | 95.2**%** | NA |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Di Martino *et al*[43] | 2011 | Retrospective | 30 | Dor | 24 | 93.4**%** | 13.3**%** |
|  |  |  | 26 | Nissen | 24 | 92.3**%** | 0**%** |

NA: Not available; GERD: Gastroesophageal reflux disease.

**Table 3 Comparison of surgical outcomes between laparoscopic Heller myotomy with fundoplication *vs* pneumatic dilation**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Author** | **Year** | **Study design** | **Samples** | **Approach** | **Procedure** | **Follow up (mo)** | **Success**  | **postop-GERD**  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Kostic *et al*[56] | 2007 | RCT | 25 | laparoscopy | myotomy + fundoplication | 12 | NA | NA |
|  |  |  | 26 | endoscopy | pneumatic dilation | 12 | NA | NA |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Novais *et al*[57] | 2010 | RCT | 47 | laparoscopy | myotomy + fundoplication | 3 | 88.3**%** | 4.7**%** |
|  |  |  | 47 | endoscopy | pneumatic dilation | 3 | 73.8**%** | 31**%** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Boeckxstaens *et al*[58] | 2011 | RCT | 106 | laparoscopy | myotomy + fundoplication | 43 | 90**%** | 23**%** |
|  |  |  | 95 | endoscopy | pneumatic dilation | 43 | 86**%** | 15**%** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Persson *et al*[59] | 2014 | RCT | 25 | laparoscopy | myotomy + fundoplication | 60 | 92**%** | NA |
|  |  |  | 28 | endoscopy | pneumatic dilation | 60 | 64**%** | NA |

NA: Not available; GERD: Gastroesophageal reflux disease; RCT: Retrospective cohort study.

**Table 4 Comparison of surgical outcomes between laparoscopic Heller myotomy *vs* peroral endoscopic myotomy *n* (%)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Author** | **Year** | **Study design** | **Samples** | **Procedure** | **Follow up (d)** | **OP time (min)** | **Major complication (perforation)** | **Postop-GERD** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hungness *et al*[66] | 2013 | Retrospective | 55 | myotomy | 42 | 125 | 1 (2) | NA |
|  |  |  | 18 | POEM | 42 | 113 | 1 (6) | 7 (39) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ujiki *et al*[67] | 2013 | Case control | 21 | myotomy | 164 | 154.5 | 1 (4.8) | 4 (19) |
|  |  |  | 18 | POEM | 116 | 155.8 | 1 (5.6) | 5 (27.8) |

Symptomatic GERD or PPI required. NA: Not available; GERD: Gastroesophageal reflux disease; POEM: Peroral endoscopic myotomy.

N/A: not available

 **Table 5 Surgical outcomes of reoperation for patients with achalasia**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Author** | **Year** | **Samples** | **Approach (primary)** | **Approach (re-do)** | **Mucosal injury** | **Re-revision** | **Satisfaction** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Iqbal *et al*[71] | 2006 | 15 | 10: Laparoscopy | 15: Laparoscopy | 30**%** | 20**%** | 40**%** - 89**%** |
|  |  |  | 3: Thoracoscopy | (2: Conversion to laparotomy) |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 1: Laparotomy |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 1: Thoracotomy |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Rakita *et al*[73] | 2007 | 12 |  | 11: Laparoscopy | NA | 25**%** | 82**%** |
|  |  |  |  | 1: Thoracoscopy |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Grotenhuis *et al*[74] | 2007 | 19 | 13: Abdominal | 13: Abdominal | 15.8**%** | 10.5**%** | 50**%** |
|  |  |  | 6: Thoracic | 6: Thoracic |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Loviscek *et al*[75] | 2013 | 43 | 20: Abdominal | 26: Laparoscopy | 4.7**%** | 9.3**%** | 79**%** |
|  |  |  | 23: Thoracic |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Omura *et al*[76] | 2012 | 10 | 7: Laparoscopy | 5: Laparoscopy | 30**%** | NA | 90**%** |
|  |  |  | 3: Thoracoscopy | 2: Thoracoscopy |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | 1: Laparotomy |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | 1: Laparotomy + thoracotomy |  |  |  |

NA: Not available.

**Table 6 Surgical outcomes of reduced port surgery for patients with achalasia**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Author** | **Year** | **Samples** | **Procedure** | **Follow up (mo)** | **Op time (min)** | **Mucosal injury**  | **Conversion to laparotomy**  | **Satisfaction** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Barry *et al*[81] | 2011 | 66 | Myotomy+ anterior fundoplication | NA | 117 | 3**%** | 0**%** | 94**%** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Omura *et al*[82] | Epub | 24 | Myotomy+ anterior fundoplication | 8 | 230 | 13**%** | 0**%** | 90**%** |

NA: Not available.