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World J Clin Cases 2024 May 16; 12(14): 2293-2465



EDITORIAL

- 2293 Bringing gut microbiota into the spotlight of clinical research and medical practice
Davoutis E, Gkiafi Z, Lykoudis PM
- 2301 Fertility preservation in patients with gynecologic cancer
Gică N
- 2304 Investigating causal links between gastroesophageal reflux disease and essential hypertension
Jagirdhar GSK, Bains Y, Surani S

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Case Control Study

- 2308 Neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio associated with renal function in type 2 diabetic patients
Gao JL, Shen J, Yang LP, Liu L, Zhao K, Pan XR, Li L, Xu JJ
- 2316 Impact of stage-specific limb function exercises guided by a self-management education model on arteriovenous fistula maturation status
Li Y, Huang LJ, Hou JW, Hu DD

Retrospective Cohort Study

- 2324 Investigation of risk factors in the development of recurrent urethral stricture after internal urethrotomy
Gul A, Ekici O, Zengin S, Barali D, Keskin T

Retrospective Study

- 2332 Clinicopathological characteristics and typing of multilocular cystic renal neoplasm of low malignant potential
Gao WL, Li G, Zhu DS, Niu YJ
- 2342 Non-improvement of atrophic gastritis in cases of gastric cancer after successful *Helicobacter pylori* eradication therapy
Suzuki Y, Katayama Y, Fujimoto Y, Kobori I, Tamano M
- 2350 Lymphatic plastic bronchitis and primary chylothorax: A study based on computed tomography lymphangiography
Li XP, Zhang Y, Sun XL, Hao K, Liu MK, Hao Q, Wang RG

Clinical and Translational Research

- 2359 Genetically predicted fatty liver disease and risk of psychiatric disorders: A mendelian randomization study
Xu WM, Zhang HF, Feng YH, Li SJ, Xie BY

- 2370** Different effects of 24 dietary intakes on gastroesophageal reflux disease: A mendelian randomization
Liu YX, Yang WT, Li Y

CASE REPORT

- 2382** Clinical review and literature analysis of hepatic epithelioid angiomyolipoma in alcoholic cirrhosis: A case report
Guo JQ, Zhou JH, Zhang K, Lv XL, Tu CY
- 2389** Previously undiagnosed Morgagni hernia with bowel perforation detected during repeat screening colonoscopy: A case report
Al Alawi S, Barkun AN, Najmeh S
- 2396** Pleomorphic rhabdomyosarcoma of the vagina: A case report
Xu P, Ling SS, Hu E, Yi BX
- 2404** Coexistence of liver abscess, hepatic cystic echinococcosis and hepatocellular carcinoma: A case report
Hu YW, Zhao YL, Yan JX, Ma CK
- 2412** Waist subcutaneous soft tissue metastasis of rectal mucinous adenocarcinoma: A case report
Gong ZX, Li GL, Dong WM, Xu Z, Li R, Lv WX, Yang J, Li ZX, Xing W
- 2420** Combined laparoscopic and thoracoscopic repair of adult right-sided Bochdalek hernia with massive liver prolapse: A case report
Mikami S, Kimura S, Tsukamoto Y, Hiwatari M, Hisatsune Y, Fukuoka A, Matsushita T, Enomoto T, Otsubo T
- 2426** Immediate secondary rhinoplasty using a folded dermofat graft for resolving complications related to silicone implants: A case report
Kim H, Kim JH, Koh IC, Lim SY
- 2431** Sustained remission of Cronkhite-Canada syndrome after corticosteroid and mesalazine treatment: A case report
Chen YL, Wang RY, Mei L, Duan R
- 2438** Type one autoimmune pancreatitis based on clinical diagnosis: A case report
Zhang BY, Liang MW, Zhang SX
- 2445** Detection of LAMA2 c.715C>G;p.R239G mutation in a newborn with raised creatine kinase: A case report
Yuan J, Yan XM
- 2451** Ultrasound-guided sphenopalatine ganglion block for effective analgesia during awake fiberoptic nasotracheal intubation: A case report
Kang H, Park S, Jin Y
- 2457** Appendiceal bleeding caused by vascular malformation: A case report
Ma Q, Du JJ

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

2463 Early diagnosis of pancreatic cancer: Shedding light on an unresolved challenge

Lindner C

ABOUT COVER

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Fertility preservation in patients with gynecologic cancer

Nicolae Gică

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Abstract

In this editorial we comment on the article by Gu *et al.* We focus and debate the necessity of fertility sparing surgery in young women's with gynecologic cancers, specifically on those patients with the desire to conceive. This type of individualized treatment options is often very difficult, due to the risk of disease evolution and multiple disparities in fertility preservation services among women in different countries and societies. For this reason national policy interventions are mandatory in order to ensure equitable access this procedures, in women with cancer.

Key Words: Fertility sparing surgery; Pregnancy; Gynecologic cancer; Endometrial cancer; Ovarian cancer

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Core Tip: Fertility preservation is a delicate balance, requiring multidisciplinary approach. Timely discussions about fertility preservation options should be integrated into the overall treatment plan, allowing patients to make informed decisions about their reproductive future. While not without challenges, fertility preservation provides cancer survivors with the opportunity to conceive and regain a sense of normalcy post-treatment.

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INTRODUCTION

Fertility preservation is mandatory in women at reproductive age with cancer, with no children, and desire to procreate. There are multiple disparities in fertility preservation services among women in different countries and societies. For this reason, national policy interventions are mandatory to ensure equitable access to these procedures, in women with cancer.

A special category is represented by young women with gynecological cancer or premalignant diseases, who wish to preserve their childbearing potential. Conservative management, to preserve fertility is recommended in these patients, in selected cases[1]. If conservative management is not feasible, different types of fertility preservation (oocyte vitrification, ovarian cortex cryopreservation, or embryo cryopreservation) should be offered to young women with cancer[2].

Fertility preservation is a delicate balance, requiring a multidisciplinary approach. Timely discussions about fertility preservation options should be integrated into the overall treatment plan, allowing patients to make informed decisions about their reproductive future. While not without challenges, fertility preservation provides cancer survivors with the opportunity to conceive and regain a sense of normalcy post-treatment. This evolving field reflects a commitment to holistic care, recognizing the importance of preserving not only life but also the potential for creating new life beyond cancer.

Fertility preservation has become a necessity, to improve the quality of life in young women, after cancer treatment. Increasing survival rates, due to the new therapies and early diagnosis of different types of cancer in young women requires new national and international strategies to improve procreation.

This strategy, in my opinion, should clearly define the importance of onco-fertility care in women at reproductive age, with no children and a desire to procreate.

In this editorial, we want to add this comment, after reading the article published by Gu *et al*[3]. Endometrial neoplasia is now easy to diagnose using hysteroscopy. Moreover, this type of fertility-sparing treatment is reserved for young women with the desire to conceive, after delivery the radical treatment is recommended.

Recent statistics reports highlight the incidence of endometrial neoplasia being 4.5% and mortality of 3.4% of all malignancies. Normally this pathology appears in the postmenopausal period, except in a small group including very young women, with a desire to conceive. The standard treatment is hysterectomy with bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy with or without lymph node dissection but in low-risk patients with endometrioid endometrial cancer (EC) stage IA, grade 1, with or without focal lymphovascular invasion, stage I the fertility-sparing surgery can be an option[4].

Moreover, immune checkpoint inhibitors were recently discovered as a potential game-changer, nowadays predictive biomarkers are mandatory to stratify this category of patients with EC[5].

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the fertility-sparing surgery in uterine or ovarian cancer is individualized, to preserve the reproductive function and the patient should be reevaluated after birth for definitive treatment.

FOOTNOTES

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