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ABSTRACTS

**Rectal Cancer**

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**Current Approaches to Localized Rectal Cancer—T1-T2 Lesions and the Trans-Anal Approach**

**Lisa Kachnic, MD**

Boston Medical Center, Boston, MA

The use of full thickness local excision as a replacement for radical resection in the management of T1 and T2 rectal cancers is the subject of continued debate, as long-term prospective data on outcomes and morbidity are limited. This discussion will examine the criteria for and the surgical techniques of local excision, as well as the outcomes and morbidity of local excision vs. radical resection for these early cancers. The role of chemoradiation as adjuvant management to local excision will also be reviewed.

*Further Reading:*

*Nash et al, Dis Colon Rectum 52: 577-582, 2009*

*Bleday et al, Dis Col Rectum 51: 1185-94, 2008*

*You et al, Ann Surg 245: 726-33, 2007*