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ABSTRACTS

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Prognostic Factors for Rectal Cancer and Anal Cancer

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There exists some heterogeneity among rectal cancer and anal cancer patients in their outcomes. This talk will review some of the clinical factors, treatment-related factors, and biologic factors that affect outcomes in patients with rectal adenocarcinoma and squamous cell anal carcinoma. A better knowledge of prognostic factors could help us develop individualized therapies for patients, and select high-risk patients for more aggressive and innovative treatments. For rectal cancer patients, the important prognostic factors include pathologic T and N classification, response to preoperative chemoradiation, radial margin (circumferential resection margin), and number of lymph nodes in the operative specimen. For anal cancer patients, the important prognostic factors include T and N classification, gender, radiation dose, and treatment duration. Further studies are needed to elucidate the role of molecular biomarkers for rectal and anal cancer.