

**SAFETY AND EFFICACY OF LAPAROSCOPIC COLECTOMY ON ELDERLY COLON CANCER PATIENTS: AGE SPECIFIC OUTCOMES OF LAPAROSCOPIC COLECTOMY**

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**Background/purpose:** Laparoscopic colectomy has been established as the standard of care for colon and rectal malignancies. As the elderly population continues to increase in numbers, the safety of laparoscopic colectomy for the elderly population needs to be investigated. We sought to compare the outcome of laparoscopic treatment for colon and rectal malignancies with special focus on the comparison between “young-elderly” and “old-elderly.”

**Methods:** This study was a retrospective analysis of 37 elderly patients (>65-year-old) who underwent laparoscopic colectomy for colorectal malignancy between February 2002 and June 2009.

**Results:** Of 37 patients, 16 were “young-elderly” (65-74 years-old), 17 were “old-elderly” (75-84 years-old), and 4 were “super-elderly” (85-94 years-old) patients. The incidence of postoperative complications, except for mild superficial surgical site infection, in each group were the following, respectively: 12.5% (2/16, 2 anastomosis leak), 6% (1/17, asymptomatic inferior mesenteric vein thrombosis), 50% (2/4, 1 anastomosis leak, 1 small bowel obstruction). Mean lengths of hospital stay were 19.2, 14.6, and 46 days respectively. There was no mortality in this study. There was no statistically significant difference of mortality or length of hospital stay between “young-elderly” and “old-elderly” group. There was a significantly increased rate of complications and length of hospital stay in the “super-elderly” group as compared to the other two groups.

**Conclusion:** Laparoscopic colectomy can be performed safely for “old-elderly” patients with colon malignancy. The indication for laparoscopic colectomy should be carefully considered for “super-elderly” patients.