Effect and Prognosis Factors of Combining Laparoscopic Radical Resection of Colon Adenocarcinoma with Docetaxel Therapy in Treating Middle and Advanced Colon Adenocarcinoma

Qi Gao, Caifeng Zhang, Zhichao Dong, Yan Guo, and Li Zhang

1Department of Gastroenterology, Xinxiang Central Hospital, The Fourth Clinical College of Xinxiang Medical College, Xinxiang 453000, Henan, China
2Department of Gastroenterology, The First Affiliated Hospital of Xinxiang Medical College, Xinxiang 453100, Henan, China

Correspondence should be addressed to Qi Gao; gaoqi@xxszxyy.org.cn

Research Article

1. Introduction

Colon adenocarcinoma (COAD) is relatively common among the malignant neoplastic diseases in the digestive system [1]; its incidence varies greatly around the world, which is exceedingly high in North America and Europe. In recent years, with the high rate of economic development in China, gradual improvement of people’s living standards, and the “Westernization” of the dietary structure, China’s incidence and mortality of COAD are getting close to regions such as North America and Europe, making COAD the third most malignant tumor disease in China [2]. COAD is usually treated by surgery, mostly by traditional laparotomy, to remove the lesion completely, but the long surgery time, large intraoperative blood loss, great trauma, etc. can cause damage to the patients’ body and poor prognosis [3]. Laparoscopic surgery, on the other hand, enables precise ligation of tumor vessels, which can achieve the same degree of tumor resection compared to traditional laparotomy. However, it is difficult for the two surgery modalities to reach a desirable treatment effect, and patients need to accept an adjuvant drug therapy. Docetaxel is a new generation of taxel antitumor drugs that can control disease progression by enhancing tubulin polymerization and
inhibiting microtubule depolymerization to disrupt mitosis of tumor cells, and arresting tumor cell growth [4], which has been applied in treating breast cancer, cervical cancer, and ovarian cancer [5–7]. COAD prognosis is generally associated with differentiation degree, tumor stage and pathological type, but because of the influence of other factors, it is still quite different even in the same condition. Therefore, the prognosis can be affected by multiple complex factors, and the related indicators need to be continuously improved to guide the treatment of the disease [8]. At present, the treatment of COAD is mostly based on surgery and supplemented by postoperative chemotherapy, and the evaluation of postoperative prognosis and the development of an intervention program can effectively improve the long-term outcome of patients. Based on this, the clinical efficacy of laparoscopic radical resection of COAD combined with docetaxel therapy in treating COAD of middle and advanced stages was analyzed and the factors affecting patient outcome were explored in the study, so as to guide future clinical intervention and then improve prognosis.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. General Data. The study subjects were 103 patients with middle and advanced COAD treated in our hospital from July 2016 to July 2018, and the study met the criteria of World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki (2013) [9]. Inclusion criteria were as follows: (1) those who were diagnosed with COAD for the first time by colonoscopy and met the relevant diagnosis criteria for COAD in Clinical Diagnosis and Treatment Guide · Tumor Staging; (2) those who met the surgical indications of laparoscopic surgery, and their estimated survival was at least 6 months; and (3) those who did not have chemotherapy contraindications, and received the docetaxel therapy for the first time. Exclusion criteria were as follows: (1) those who obtained abnormal results in electrocardiogram, routine examination of blood, urine, and stool, and liver and kidney function tests; (2) those who were complicated with neurologic disorder history, diabetic peripheral neuropathy, and autoimmune diseases; and (3) those who were allergic to the drug used in the study or quit the trial in the middle of treatment. The study was approved by the Hospital Ethics Committee.

2.2. Methods. The patients received laparoscopic radical resection of COAD under general anesthesia. With the patients in the Trendelenburg position, an incision was made at the navel site for establishment of CO 2 pneumoperitoneum to infuse CO 2 at the pressure controlled within 12–14 mmHg. Three to four puncture holes were made into the lesion at the left and right upper abdomen to place the 5 mm trocars, the 10 mm trocars were placed through the lower part of umbilicus and both sides of upper abdomen for placement of ultrasound knife, forceps and laparoscope for intra-abdominal exploration and observation of tumor size, position, and metastases. After the tumor location was determined, the blood vessel was ligated at the root, the local intestinal canal and mesenterium proximal to the tumor were tied with gauze, the peritoneum and mesenterium were cut open with ultrasound knife to free the part from mesenterium vessel to the root, resect the sigmoid colon and the lymph glands under the mesenterium at both sides of the rectum from top to bottom, remove the excess fat tissue, and cut open the colic ligament and half of the gastrocolic ligament. An anastomot was placed in the anus of patients to anastomose with the resected intestinal canal. After the end of surgery, the patients’ abdominal cavity was rinsed with normal saline and a discharge tube was placed.

After surgery, docetaxel (manufacturer: Jiangsu Hengrui Medicine Co. Ltd.; registration number: X20020450; specification: 60 mg) was given via intravenous drip.

2.3. Observation Indicators

2.3.1. Evaluation of Short-Term Efficacy. According to the Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors (RECIST) [10], the patients’ treatment effect was evaluated (see Table 1 for the specific criteria), which was classified as complete response (CR), partial response (PR), stable disease (SD), and progressive disease (PD). Moreover, the total remission rate = (number of CR cases + number of PR cases)/total number of cases × 100%.

2.3.2. Survival. The patients’ 3-year overall survival (OS) was recorded, and their clinical and pathological files were collected and organized for the analysis of factors affecting prognosis. Distant metastasis: metastases of cancer foci to the organs or lymph glands other than the surgical site were observed.

2.3.3. Detection of the Serum Tumor Marker Level. The level values of serum CEA, CA125, and CA19-9 were measured by the Cobas E411 analyzer that applies the electrochemiluminescence (ECL) technology (manufacturer: Guangzhou Golon Technology Co., Ltd.).

2.4. Follow-Up. All patients were followed up every 3 months by outpatient review, telephone, and other modalities, the review contents included imaging examinations and oncological indicators, and enteroscopy was rechecked every year to track the patients’ tumor metastasis and survival.

2.5. Statistical Methods. In this study, the data were processed by the professional statistical software SPSS26.0, the picture drawing software was GraphPad Prism 7 (GraphPad Software, San Diego, USA), the enumeration data were examined by $\chi^2$ test and expressed by (n(%)), the measurement data were examined by $t$-test and expressed by mean ± SD, the risk factors affecting the prognosis of patients with middle and advanced COAD were analyzed by logistic regression, and differences were considered statistically significant at $P < 0.05$. 

...
3. Results

3.1. Efficacy Evaluation. After treatment, the patients' clinical symptoms were improved, and there were 36 CR cases (34.95%), 42 PR cases (40.78%), 16 SD cases (15.53%), and 9 PD cases (8.74%). The total remission rate was 75.73% (78/103).

3.2. Occurrence of Complications. During the study, 4 patients had postoperative bleeding (3.88%), 3 patients had myelosuppression (2.91%), 4 patients had cutaneous toxic reactions (3.88%), and 6 patients had mild thrombocytopenia (5.83%). The total incidence rate of adverse reactions was 16.50% (17/103).

3.3. Survival and Distant Metastasis. According to the 3-year follow-up to 76 patients, the distant metastasis rate was 23.30% (24/103); and the 3-year OS was 75.73% (78/103).

3.4. Comparison of Serum Tumor Marker Levels before and after Treatment. After treatment, the patients' level values of various serum tumor markers were significantly lower than those before treatment (*P < 0.001). See Figure 1.

3.5. Univariate Analysis of Factors Affecting Patient Survival. The differences in mortality rates of COAD patients with different gender and tumor location were not statistically significant (*P > 0.05); and for COAD patients with different tumor diameters, differentiated degrees, TNM stages, perineural invasion, pathological types, and depths of invasion, their mortality rates were statistically different (*P < 0.05). See Table 2.

3.6. Multivariate Analysis of Factors Affecting Patient Survival. The logistic regression analysis showed that tumor diameter ≥ 5 cm, poor differentiation, TNM stage IV,
perineural invasion, pathologically signet-ring cell carcinoma, and $T_3$-invasion were the independent risk factors affecting patient prognosis ($P < 0.05$). See Table 3.

### 4. Discussion

The latest report showed [11] that COAD incidence and mortality respectively rank 3rd and 4th in all malignant tumors, of which the incidence rose from 5th to 3rd in three years (2015 to 2018) according to the relevant study data, demonstrating that the incidence of COAD in China is increasing on a yearly basis. Surgical resection is still the main treatment of COAD [12], and the short-term efficacy of laparoscopic radical resection for COAD has been recognized. Clinical studies found that [13, 14] performing laparoscopic radical resection to COAD patients who present with surgical indications can achieve the same results as an open surgery. Since the 1990s, the laparoscopic technology has been continuously improved, and with the help of laparoscope, physicians can clearly recognize the target region anatomy and intuitively identify the lesion condition, peripheral adhesion manifestations, etc., and then accurately perform tissue separation, greatly reducing the interference with peripheral tissues [15, 16]. During the surgical procedure, by connecting the laparoscope with TV amplification system, the dissection along the perirectal space can be accurately performed, and the deeper layer of the tumor can be separated by using the ultrasound knife for sharp dissection and following the "En bloc resection" principle [14]. When removing the foci by using an ultrasound knife, effective hemostasis through the tissue such as the abdominal cavity and mesenterium minimizes the intraoperative blood loss, and with the assistance of laparoscope, the lymph nodes can be completely removed, thereby reducing the surgical incision and the risk of lesion metastasis and improving treatment efficacy and safety [17, 18].

### Table 2: Univariate analysis of factors affecting patient survival.

| Factor                      | Cases | Mortality (n(%)) | $X^2$ | $P$  |
|-----------------------------|-------|------------------|-------|------|
| Gender                      |       |                  |       |      |
| Male                        | 57    | 14 (24.56)       | 0.006 | 0.939|
| Female                      | 46    | 11 (23.91)       |       |      |
| Tumor diameter (cm)         |       |                  | 12.253| <0.001|
| <5                          | 67    | 9 (13.43)        |       |      |
| ≥5                          | 36    | 16 (44.44)       |       |      |
| Tumor location              |       |                  | 0.281 | 0.501|
| Ascending colon             | 19    | 5 (26.32)        |       |      |
| Transverse colon            | 23    | 7 (30.43)        |       |      |
| Descending colon            | 25    | 5 (20.00)        |       |      |
| Sigmoid colon               | 36    | 8 (22.22)        |       |      |
| Differentiated degree       |       |                  | 5.373 | <0.05|
| Poor                        | 36    | 16 (44.44)       |       |      |
| Moderate                    | 51    | 7 (13.73)        |       |      |
| Well                        | 16    | 2 (12.50)        |       |      |
| TNM stage                   |       |                  | 21.271| <0.001|
| III                         | 68    | 7 (10.29)        |       |      |
| IV                          | 35    | 18 (51.43)       |       |      |
| Perineural invasion         |       |                  | 9.582 | <0.05|
| Yes                         | 32    | 14 (43.75)       |       |      |
| No                          | 71    | 11 (15.49)       |       |      |
| Pathological type           |       |                  | 5.373 | <0.05|
| Signet-ring cell carcinoma  | 36    | 16 (44.44)       |       |      |
| Tubular adenocarcinoma      | 16    | 2 (12.50)        |       |      |
| Mucinous adenocarcinoma     | 51    | 7 (13.73)        |       |      |
| Depth of invasion           |       |                  | 5.373 | <0.05|
| $T_1$                       | 16    | 2 (12.50)        |       |      |
| $T_2$                       | 51    | 7 (13.73)        |       |      |
| $T_3$                       | 36    | 16 (44.44)       |       |      |

### Table 3: Multivariate analysis of factors affecting patient survival.

| Factor                              | B   | SE  | Wald   | $P$ value | Exp  | 95%CI          |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|--------|-----------|------|----------------|
| Tumor diameter ≥5 cm                | 0.430| 0.462| 3.867  | 0.034     | 2.743| 1.032–5.382    |
| Poor differentiation                | 1.127| 0.361| 9.823  | 0.002     | 3.162| 1.162–4.382    |
| TNM stage IV                        | 1.352| 0.473| 6.732  | 0.008     | 1.435| 1.028–1.938    |
| Perineural invasion                 | 0.263| 0.683| 4.281  | 0.040     | 3.271| 1.123–5.372    |
| Pathologically signet-ring cell carcinoma | 1.024| 0.296| 4.082  | 0.044     | 2.737| 1.034–3.846    |
| $T_3$-invasion                      | 1.362| 0.463| 11.263 | 0.001     | 3.273| 1.123–4.372    |
COAD is one of the major diseases that endangers human health, and although surgical resection combined with postoperative adjuvant chemotherapy is the standard treatment for COAD in middle and advanced stages, some patients who receive the regimen still experience recurrence and metastasis, leading to shorter survival [19]. In recent years, COAD treatment has achieved a tremendous progress with the development and clinical application of molecular targeted agents such as cetuximab and bevacizumab as well as immunotherapeutic agents, but currently, there is a lack of evidence for their effectiveness in the postoperative adjuvant treatment of COAD, and how to effectively alleviate the toxic effects of postoperative adjuvant chemotherapy in patients, reduce the recurrence rate, and prolong the survival remains an important issue to be solved currently. Docetaxel is a new antitumor drug with a unique anticancer mechanism, and its precursor is obtained by semisynthesis of the extract from the needle of European yew. Docetaxel can promote tubulin polymerization, inhibit tubulin depolymerization, and thus form a stable nonfunctional microtubule and suppress tumor cell proliferation and division, with an activity that is 11.3-12 times that of taxol and effects that have been demonstrated in advanced gastric cancer, lung cancer, nasopharyngeal cancer, and other diseases [20]. The trial further confirmed the efficacy of combining laparoscopic radical resection of COAD with docetaxel therapy in patients with middle and advanced COAD, so as to provide more basis for improving such patients’ quality of survival and prolonging their survival.

In this study, 103 patients with middle and advanced COAD treated in our hospital were collected as the subjects, and the joint application of laparoscopic radical resection of COAD and docetaxel therapy was conducted to explore the clinical effect of the treatment plan. CEA is a common tumor marker closely related to the occurrence of malignant tumors, which can be used for the diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis evaluation of COAD. CA19-9 is a common gastrointestinal tumor indicator, which has a good value in the prognosis evaluation and efficacy judgment of COAD. CA125 is used clinically as a tumor marker for ovarian cancer and is important in the diagnosis and monitoring of the extent of progression and recurrence status of ovarian cancer [21], which was subsequently found to have a high positive detection rate in malignant cancer diseases such as gastric cancer, COAD, and pancreatic cancer [22]. In the study by some scholars [23], Xiaoping tablets combined with docetaxel and cisplatin therapy was given to patients with middle and advanced COAD, and the serum CEA level values of patients before and after treatment were, respectively, \(33.76 \pm 4.24\) ng/mL and \(18.44 \pm 2.56\) ng/mL; while in this study, the patients’ serum CEA level after treatment was significantly better than the above experimental result, indicating that the combined treatment can more effectively kill the COAD cells and inhibit disease progression. In this study, logistic regression analysis was used to explore the effect of multiple factors on disease prognosis and provide a clinical basis for improving patients’ quality of survival. The study found that tumor diameter ≥5 cm, poor differentiation, TNM stage IV, perineural invasion, pathologically signet-ring cell carcinoma, and \(T_3\)-invasion were the independent risk factors affecting patient prognosis. In patients with a high TNM stage, the invasion of tumor tissues into the intestinal wall is deep, the progression rate and degree of malignancy are high, and the invasiveness is strong, so cancer cells are more likely to spread and metastasize, leading to poor prognosis of patients. In addition, tissue differentiation can have some effects on tumor biological behavior, poorly differentiated tumors have strong regeneration ability, and cancer cells grow fast and are more prone to lymph node metastasis, producing malignant biological behavior and affecting prognosis. Moreover, for patients with an infiltration depth of \(T_3\), the tumor tissue is difficult to be removed completely, and once the residual tumor tissue penetrates the muscularis into the serosa, the lymph node and hematogenous dissemination will be accelerated, causing tumor invasion and metastasis as well as poor prognosis [24]. Although laparoscopic treatment has a good therapeutic effect, it requires the operators’ good grip of knowledge of dissection and abdominal cavity, a long learning curve, and a higher treatment cost due to the special characteristics of this technique; for patients with large tumor volume, the space around the lesion is relatively small, which affects the surgical field to some extent and is not conducive to the treatment. This study was limited by many factors, such as fewer indicators and lack of mass data on the efficacy and safety of disease treatment, so the trial design should be refined in future studies to provide more reference basis for the clinical treatment of COAD patients.

Combining laparoscopic radical resection of COAD with docetaxel therapy provides an important basis for prolonging the survival of patients with middle and advanced COAD and improving the clinical efficacy, which is a great advance and development of COAD treatment and is extensively instructive in the clinical treatment of tumor diseases. Such modality undoubtedly provides a new direction in the treatment of COAD.

**Data Availability**

The data used to support the findings of this study are available on reasonable request from the corresponding author.

**Conflicts of Interest**

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

**References**

[1] A. Jo and H. Oh, "Incidence of colon cancer related to cigarette smoking and alcohol consumption in adults with metabolic syndrome: prospective cohort study," *Journal of Korean Academy of Nursing*, vol. 49, no. 6, pp. 713–723, 2019.

[2] Z. J. Jia, Z. H. Yang, C. X. jia, K. M. Xiao, Y. Q. Niu, and J. Chen, "A systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials on treating ulcerative colitis by the integration method ofheat-clearing, damp-excreting, spleen-strengthening, and stasis-removingof traditional Chinese
medicine with western medicine,” *World J Tradit Chin Med*, vol. 6, pp. 74–82, 2020.

[3] Y. Y. Zheng, X. Wang, T. S. Jiang, and X. S. Yu, “Randomized clinical trials of traditional Chinese medicines for treating ulcerative colitis: a scoping review,” *World J Tradit Chin Med*, vol. 7, no. 3, pp. 326–331, 2021.

[4] Z. Li, Z. Zou, and Z. Lang, “Laparoscopic versus open radical resection for transverse colon cancer: evidence from multicenter databases,” *Surgical Endoscopy*, vol. 35, pp. 1435–1441, 2021.

[5] J. L. Zhang, X. C. Guo, J. Liu, and X. J. Zhang, “[Preoperative evaluation using multi-slice spiral CT angiography of right-side colon vascular in laparoscopic radical operation for right colon cancer],” *Zhonghua Wai Ke Za Zhi*, vol. 57, pp. 927–933, 2019.

[6] K. Han Deok, J. J. Kyun, L. S. Young, H. K. Chang, and J. K. Young, “The relation between oncologic outcomes and metastatic lymph node location following laparoscopic resection of stage III colon cancer,” *International Journal of Colorectal Disease*, vol. 34, pp. 667–673, 2019.

[7] G. Basant, S. Pandey, R. Shrestha, P. Krishna, and S. L. Frances, “Review of analytical performance of COVID-19 detection methods,” *Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry*, vol. 413, pp. 35–48, 2021.

[8] L. Xing-Wang, C.-Y. Wang, J.-J. Zhang, Z. Ge, and X. H. Lin, “Short-term efficacy of transvaginal specimen extraction for right colon cancer based on propensity score matching: a retrospective cohort study,” *International Journal of Surgery*, vol. 72, pp. 102–108, 2019.

[9] World Medical Association, “World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki: ethical principles for medical research involving human subjects,” *JAMA*, vol. 310, no. 20, pp. 2191–2194, 2013 Nov 27.

[10] Y. Ding, Z. Li, H. Gao, and W. Jin, “Comparison of efficacy between natural orifice specimen extraction without abdominal incision and conventional laparoscopic surgery in the treatment of sigmoid colon cancer and upper rectal cancer,” *J BUON*, vol. 24, pp. 1817–1823, 2019.

[11] M. Atsushi, N. Koshiro, M. Hideyasu, T. Ichikawa, and S. Takahashi, “Efficacy of new therapies for relapse after docetaxel treatment of bone metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer in clinical practice,” *Anticancer Research*, vol. 42, pp. 1465–1475, 2022.

[12] K. Dutta, S. Roy, W. Timothy Daniel, J. Luo, and A. K. Jha, “Deep learning segmentation of triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) patient derived tumor xenograft (PDX) and sensitivity of radiomic pipeline to tumor probability boundary,” *Cancers*, vol. 13, 2021.

[13] V. E. Maarten, A. C. Vermunt Marit, V. W. Erik, and E. A. Willhagen, “The influence of docetaxel schedule on treatment tolerability and efficacy in patients with metastatic breast cancer: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials,” *RMC Cancer*, vol. 22, 2022.

[14] S. Roy, T. D. Whitehead, J. D. Quirk, S. Amber, and O. A. Foluso, “Optimal co-clinical radiomics: sensitivity of radiomic features to tumour volume, image noise and resolution in co-clinical T1-weighted and T2-weighted magnetic resonance imaging,” *EBioMedicine*, vol. 59, Article ID 102963, 2020.

[15] W. J. Koemans, R. T. van der Kaaij, E. C. E. Wassenaar et al., “Systemic exposure of oxaliplatin and docetaxel in gastric cancer patients with peritonitis carcinomatosis treated with intraperitoneal hyperthermic chemotherapy,” *European Journal of Surgical Oncology*, vol. 47, pp. 486–489, 2021.