SURGERY VERSUS ENDOSCOPIC THERAPIES FOR EARLY CANCER AND HIGH-GRADE DYSPLASIA IN THE ESOPHAGUS: a systematic review

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Received 17/8/2015 Accepted 19/9/2015

ABSTRACT - Background - Esophageal cancer occurs as a local disease in 22% of cases, and a minority of this disease is limited to the mucosa or submucosa (early lesions). Endoscopic mucosal resection, endoscopic submucosal dissection, photodynamic therapy, laser therapy, and argon plasma coagulation have emerged as alternatives to surgical resection for early lesions. Objective - The aim of this systematic review is to identify studies that statistically compare survival, disease-free survival, morbidity and mortality associated with the procedure, and mortality associated with cancer in the endoscopic versus surgical therapies. Data sources - A systematic review using MEDLINE, COCHRANE, EMBASE, EBSCO, LILACS, Library University of Sao Paulo, BVS, and SCOPE. Study selection - Randomized controlled trial, controlled clinical trial, clinical trial, and cohort study. Criteria - Studies that statistically compare survival, disease-free survival, morbidity and mortality associated with the procedure, and mortality associated with cancer in patients who underwent endoscopic and surgical therapy for early lesions of esophageal cancer. Data extraction - Independent extraction of the articles by two authors using predefined data fields, including study quality indicators. Limitation - Only retrosprospective cohort studies comparing the endoscopic and surgical therapies were recovered. Results - The survival rates after 3 and 5 years were different and exhibited superiority with the surgical therapies over time. Endoscopy is superior in the control of mortality related to cancer with a high rate of disease recurrence. With regard to the comorbidity and the mortality associated with the procedure, endoscopy is superior. Conclusion - There is no evidence from clinical trials. In this systematic review, surgical therapies showed superiority for survival, and endoscopic therapies showed superiority in the control of mortality related to cancer with a high rate of disease recurrence; also, for the comorbidity and the mortalit

INTRODUCTION

HEADINGS - Esophageal neoplasms, surgery. Gastrointestinal endoscopy. Morbidity. Review.

The prevalence of early cancers (invading no deeper than the submucosa) has increased, especially in Asian countries, where upper digestive screening is common^(14,31). Similarly, in the United States, there has been an increased diagnosis of early lesions starting in the Barrett's esophagus^(1,16,29).

Disease confined to the esophagus or local disease is present in 22% of the cases, and a minority of the patients have disease that is limited to the mucosa or submucosa (T1N0M0). An esophagectomy is the first line of therapy for patients with stage T1N0M0. For patients with a localized and potentially resectable form of the disease, the median survival strongly correlates with disease stage, which is where the goal of surgery is the curative resection R0^(2,5,14,31). Advanced age and comorbidities increase the risk of postoperative cardiorespiratory complications, anastomotic leakage, reoperation rates, wound infection, and death⁽¹⁵⁾. Endoscopic resection (ER)

is an alternative to surgical resection of the mucosal and submucosal neoplastic lesions and has the benefit of not having major surgical complications. Endoscopic mucosal resection (EMR), endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD), photodynamic therapy (PDT), laser therapy, and argon plasma coagulation (APC) have been developed as alternatives to surgical resection for early lesions. The benefit of these therapies is obvious and has been supported by multiple case study publications, as well as systematic reviews, with no statistical data analysis. Therefore, the benefits of these therapies compared with surgery are still not clear (3,4,11,17,27).

OBJECTIVES

The aim of this systematic review is to identify studies that statistically compare survival, disease-free survival, morbidity and mortality associated with the procedure, and mortality associated with cancer, in the endoscopic versus surgical therapies.

Declared conflict of interest of all authors: none

Disclosure of funding: no funding received

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METHODS

PROSPERO 2014: CRD42014013170(33).

Eligibility criteria

Types of studies: (Randomized Controlled Trial, Controlled Clinical Trial, Comparative Study).

Types of participants: Early esophageal cancers that are classified as Tis (high-grade dysplasia, which includes all noninvasive neoplastic epithelial that was formerly called carcinoma in situ) and T1 tumours, which are split into T1a and T1b subcategories depending on the depth of the invasion⁽⁹⁾.

- M1 Limited to the epithelial layer
- M2 Invades the lamina propria
- M3 Invades into but not through the muscularis mucosa

M1 tumours correspond to the Tis stage in the AJCC stage definition, while both M2 and M3 tumours would be considered T1a lesions.

Tumours invading the submucosa are subclassified as follows⁽²⁸⁾:

- SM1 Penetrates the shallowest one-third of the submucosa
- SM2 Penetrates into the intermediate one-third of the submucosa
- SM3 Penetrates the deepest one-third of the submucosa All of these subcategories would be considered T1b disease according to the AJCC stage definitions (8). Early esophageal cancer is considered to be T1b SM1 (200 μ invasion to the submucosa).

Types of intervention: esophagectomy or any approach compared with endoscopic mucosal resection (EMR), endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD), photodynamic therapy (PDT), laser therapy, and argon plasma coagulation (APC).

Types of outcome measures: statistically compare survival, disease-free survival, the complications associated with the procedure (morbidity and mortality), and the mortality associated with cancer.

In this search, we do not limit ourselves by year of publication or by language.

Search MEDLINE

P: (Esophageal Neoplasms OR Esophageal Neoplasm OR Neoplasm Esophageal OR Middle third submucosal layer OR Deep third submucosal layer OR Submucosal esophageal cancer AND ESOPHAG*) AND I: (Surgical Procedures, Operative OR OREsophagectomy OR Esophagectomies) AND C: (Endoscopy OR Surgical Procedures, Endoscopic OR Gastrointestinal Surgery, Endoscopic OR Esophagogastroduodenoscopies).

EBSCO, EMBASE, LILACS, COCHRANE, LIBRARY UNIVERSITY OF SAO PAULO, BVS, SCOPE

P: Esophagus cancer AND early AND I: surgery AND C: endoscopy.

Study selection

Two reviewers performed the eligibility assessment, which was performed independently in an unblinded standardized manner. Each reviewer completed a thorough reading of the abstract to identify studies comparing endoscopic with surgical techniques. The studies that were selected were read in their entirety and were excluded according with criteria from JADAD⁽¹³⁾ NEWCASTLE OTTAWA⁽¹⁰⁾ and Methodology Check List SIGN⁽²⁶⁾. We excluded studies that did not report the results in absolute numbers. Disagreements between reviewers were resolved by consensus.

Data collection process

We extracted the data through a detailed reading of the results of each study, including the information on mortality at 3 and 5 years, disease-free survival at 5 years, complications associated with the procedure (mortality and morbidity), and mortality associated with cancer. We only included the absolute numbers reported in the text of the article or with the analysis of the graphs. We excluded an article for not reporting the results in absolute numbers. One review author extracted the data described below from the included studies, and the second author checked the extracted data. Disagreements were resolved by discussion between the two review authors; we did not contact authors for further information.

Data items

We select items from populations with early adenocarcinoma or squamous cell cancer of the esophagus (EAC ESCC), and we understood these cancers as mucosal and submucosal M1, M2, M3, SM1, SM2, and SM3.

We compared endoscopic submucosal dissection, endoscopic mucosal resection, photodynamic therapy, and ablative therapies (EMR, ESD, PDT, TA) with esophagectomies by a transhiatal or a transthoracic approach and minimally invasive techniques (TH, TT, MI).

Risk of bias in the individual studies

The first approach to identify the risk of bias was undertaken using the NEWCASTLE OTTAWA (11) and Methodology Check List: Cohort studies SIGN⁽²⁶⁾.

Synthesis of results

We performed an analysis with the available software RevMan5⁽⁷⁾ using the following characteristics: dichotomous data type, statistical method of Mantel-Haenszel, fixed effect model analysis, effect measure risk difference, study confidence interval 95%, total confidence interval 95%, and organized by year of study.

Risk of bias across the studies

To identify true heterogeneity and cause for publication bias between studies, we conducted both a graphic funnel plot and an I² analysis. We noted that a value of I² greater than 50% was considered as high heterogeneity, and if the study was outside of the funnel plot it was regarded as a publication bias, but if it was inside the funnel plot, it was considered to be true heterogeneity.

RESULTS

Study selections

We identified 9859 studies through the PUBMED search and through the COCHRANE, EMBASE, EBSCO, LILACS, Library University of Sao Paulo, BVS and SCOPE we found 9527 studies. After eliminating the repeat studies, we identified a total of 16699 studies. We excluded studies that did not have information concerning early esophagus cancer. NO PROSPECTIVE CLINICAL TRIAL WAS FOUND. We chose 20 studies that we reviewed with the NEWCASTLE OTTAWA and the Methodology Check List: Cohort studies SIGN and excluded 7 of these studies. We included 13 studies for the qualitative analysis and 12 studies for the quantitative analysis (Figure 1).

Study characteristics

The characteristics of the studies are summarized in Table 1 and describe the oncologic diagnosis analysed. The number of interventions for each treatment group and the report in absolute numbers gives each outcome of interest extracted.

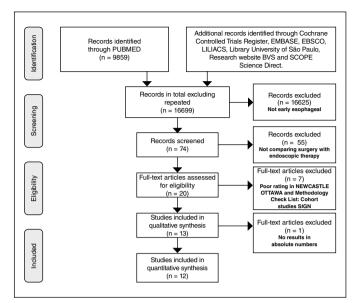


FIGURE 1. Flow diagram studies selection(19)

TABLE 1. Study characteristics

Study	Population	Intervention	MAP* (MoAP)*	Survival 3 year (MAC)*	Survival 5 year (MAC)*	DFS*	
N. 1 PR 201 / (19)	M1-2-3	E 1428 (EMR ESD TA)	7	•	1092		
Merkow RP, 2014 (18)	SM1-2-3 EAC ESCC 04-10	S 3962 (NS)*	139		3470		
Wani S, 2014 (32)	M1-2-3	E 430 (NS)*		318	266		
wani 5, 2014 (57)	SM1-2-3 EAC ESCC 98-09	S 1586 (NS)*		1237	1110		
NT 1 0.2012 (20)	M1-2-3 SM1-2-3	E 306 (NS)*		223	177 (56)	248 5y	
Ngamruengphong, S 2013 (20)	EAC 98-09	S 1312 (NS)* E29 (EMR)		1023 19	918 (289) 17	1023 5y	
Tian J, 2011 (30)	SM1-2-3 EAC 95-10	S39 (TT TH)		35	31		
Pech O, 2011 (22)	M1-2-3	E 76 (NS)*	0	73	68	69-5y	
	EAC 96-09	S 38 (TT)	1	35	35	38-5y	
Zehetner J, 2011 (34)	M1-2-3	E 40 (EMR PDT)	0 (0)	38 (0)	0		
	EAC 01/out	S 61 (TH TT MI VSR)	0 (16)	57 (0)	7		
Prasad GA, 2009 (24)	M1-2-3	E 132 (EMR PDT)	0(18)		109 (1)	105-5y	
	EAC 98-07	S 46 (TH TT)	1(17)		43 (1)	45-5y	
Das A, 2008 ⁽⁶⁾	M1-2-3 SM1-2-3 EAC	E 99 (EMR PDT TA)		76	76		
	ESCC 98-03	S 643 (NS)*		521	502		
Schembre DB, 2008 (25)	M1-2-3	E 62 (EMR APC PDT)	1	55 (0)			
	EAC 98-05	S 32 (NS)*	0	30 (0)			
Prasad GA, 2007 (23)	M1 EAC	E 129 (EMR PDT)	0	122	118 (0)	110-5y	
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	94-04	S 70 (TT TH) E 24 (EMR PDT)	1 (27) 0(4)	67	64 (0)	66-5y 20-1y	
Pacifico RJ, 2003 (21)	M1-2-3 SM1-2-3 EAC 96-01	S 64 (NS)*	1(34)			64-1y	
	M1-2-3	E 37 (EMR)	0 (2)	26(0)	22 (0)		
Fujita H, 2001 ⁽⁹⁾	ESCC 81-97	S 35 (TT TH)	5 (24)	26(0)	24 (0)		

M: mucosa; SM: submucosa; EAC: early adenocarcinoma; ESCC: squamous cell carcinoma; EMR: endoscopic mucosal resection; ESD: endoscopic submucosal dissection; TA: trans abdominal; TH: trans hiatal; TT: trans thoracic; MI: minimally invasive; MAP: mortality associate to procedure; MoAP: morbidity associated to procedure; MAC: mortality associated to cancer; DFS: disease free survival; NS not specified.

Risk of bias within the studies

The first approach to identify risk of bias was undertaken using the NEWCASTLE OTTAWA⁽¹⁰⁾ and Methodology Check List: Cohort studies SIGN⁽²⁶⁾. Because all of the studies were retrospective cohorts from hospital care data networks, the rate was generally good.

RESULTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL STUDIES AND THE SYNTHESIS OF THE RESULTS

3-year survival

Risk Difference in 3-year survival for the endoscopy and surgery therapies.

Nine studies reported the 3-year survival, and the heterogeneity test indicated χ^2 =9.35 and I²=14%, which demonstrated a insignificant heterogeneity. The fixed-effects model was adopted, and the RD was -0.04 (95% CI: -0.07, -0.01) (Figure 2). An analysis of the pooled data revealed differences between the two therapies. There was a statistically significant increase in survival with the surgical therapy.

5-year survival

Risk Difference in 5-year survival for the endoscopy and surgery therapies.

Ten studies reported the 5-year survival, and the heterogeneity test indicated χ^2 =14.08 and I²=36%, which demonstrated a low heterogeneity. The fixed-effects model was adopted, and the RD was -0.10 (95% CI: -0.12, -0.08) (Figure 3). An analysis of the pooled data revealed differences between the two therapies. There was a statistically significant increase in survival with surgical therapy.

Disease-free survival after 5 years

Risk Difference in disease-free survival after 5 years for the endoscopy and surgery therapies.

Five studies reported disease-free survival after 5 years, and the heterogeneity test indicated χ^2 =29.28 and I² =86%, which demonstrated a high heterogeneity. The fixed-effects model was adopted, and the RD was -0.02 (95% CI: -0.06, -0.02) (Figure 4). In the funnel plot analysis, the study by Ngamruengphong S. (2013) was identified as a source of

Study or Subgroup	Experimental		Control		Risk Difference			Risk Difference	
	Events	Total	Events	Total	Weight	M-H, Fixed, 95% CI	Year	M-H, Fixed, 95% CI	
Fujita H	26	37	26	35	2.2%	-0.04 [-0.25, 0.17]	2001		
Prasad GA	122	129	67	70	5.5%	-0.01 [-0.07, 0.05]	2007		
Schembre DB	55	62	30	32	2.6%	-0.05 [-0.17, 0.06]	2008		
Das A	76	99	521	643	10.4%	-0.04 [-0.13, 0.05]	2008		
Zehetner JJ	38	40	57	61	2.9%	0.02 [-0.08, 0.11]	2011		
Tian J	19	29	35	39	2.0%	-0.24 [-0.44, -0.04]	2011		
Pech O	73	76	35	38	3.1%	0.04 [-0.06, 0.14]	2011	 	
Ngamruengphong S	223	306	1023	1312	30.2%	-0.05 [-0.11, 0.00]	2013		
Wani S	318	430	1237	1586	41.1%	-0.04 [-0.09, 0.01]	2014	-	
Total (95% CI)		1208		3816	100.0%	-0.04 [-0.07, -0.01]		♦	
Total events	950		3031						
Heterogeneity: Chi ² =9	0.35, df=8 (P	$=0.31$); $I^2=1$	4%				⊢ -1	-0.5 0 0.5	
Test of overall effect: $Z=2.96$ ($P=0.003$)							Favour Surgery Favour Endoscopy		

FIGURE 2. Risk difference in 3 year survival, for endoscopy and surgery therapies

Study or Subgroup	Endoscopy		Surgery		Risk Difference			Risk Difference	
	Events	Total	Events	Total	Weight	M-H, Fixed, 95% CI	Year	M-H, Fixed, 95%	CI
Fujita H	22	37	24	35	1.0%	-0.09 [-0.31, 0.13]	2001		
Prasad GA	118	129	64	70	2.4%	-0.00 [-0.08, 0.08]	2007	-	
Das A	76	99	502	643	4.6%	-0.01 [-0.10, 0.08]	2008	-	
Prasad G	109	132	43	46	1.8%	-0.11 [-0.21, -0.01]	2009		
Tian J	17	29	31	39	0.9%	-0.21 [-0.43, 0.01]	2011		
Pech O	68	76	35	38	1.3%	-0.03 [-0.14, 0.08]	2011		
Zehetner JJ	0	40	7	61	1.3%	-0.11 [-0.20, -0.03]	2011		
Ngamruengphong S	177	306	918	1312	13.2%	-0.12 [-0.18, -0.06]	2013		
Wani S	266	430	1110	1586	17.9%	-0.08 [-0.13, -0.03]	2014	-	
Merkow RP	1092	1428	3470	3962	55.7%	-0.11 [-0.14, -0.09]	2014	_	
Total (95% CI)		2706		7792	100.0%	-0.10 [-0.12, -0.08]		•	
Total events	1945		6204						1
Heterogeneity: Chi ² =1	4.08, df=9 ($P=0.12$); $I^2=$	36%				-1	-0.5 0	0.5
Test of overall effect: $Z=10.20$ ($P<0.00001$)								avour Endoscopy	

FIGURE 3. Risk difference in 5 year survival, for endoscopy an surgery therapies

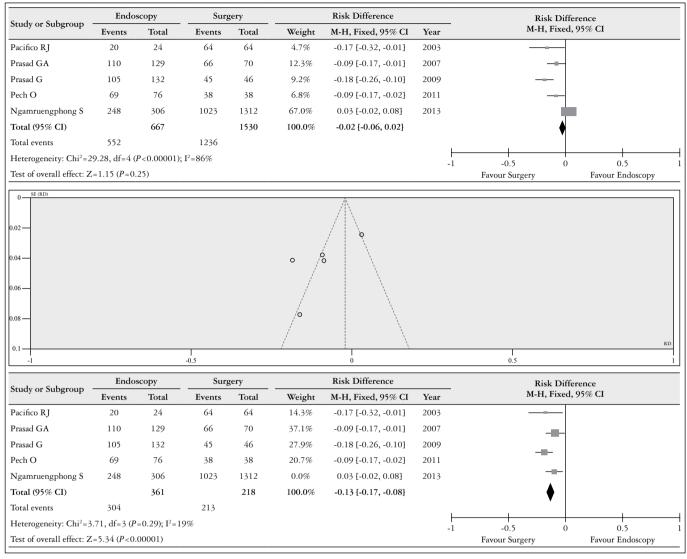


FIGURE 4. Risk difference in disease-free survival 5 years, for endoscopy and surgery therapies

heterogeneity; by consensus, the reviewers opted to withdraw this work. Four studies reported disease-free survival after 5 years, and the heterogeneity test indicated χ^2 =3.71 and I²=19%, which demonstrated a low level of heterogeneity. The fixed-effects model was adopted, and the RD was -0.13 (95% CI: -0.17, -0.08) (Figure 4). An analysis of the pooled data revealed differences in the disease-free survival in the fifth year and showed better outcomes for the surgical therapy.

Mortality associated with the procedure

Risk Difference in the mortality associated with the procedure for the endoscopy and surgery therapies.

Eight studies reported mortality associated with the procedure, and the heterogeneity test indicated χ^2 =8.85 and I²=21%, which demonstrated an insignificant heterogeneity. The fixed-effects model was adopted, and the RD was -0.03 (95% CI: -0.04, -0.02) (Figure 5). An analysis of the pooled

data revealed differences between the two therapies. There was a statistically significant increase in mortality with the surgical therapy.

Morbidity associated with the procedure

Risk ratio in the morbidity associated with the procedure for the endoscopy and surgery therapies.

Four studies reported morbidity associated with the procedure, and the heterogeneity test indicated χ^2 =6.38 and I²=53%, which demonstrated a moderately high level of heterogeneity. The fixed-effects model was adopted, and the risk difference was -0.24 (95% CI: -0.31, -0.16) (Figure 6). In the funnel plot analysis, we identified true heterogeneity, and the reviewers opted to perform a Risk Ratio analysis. Four studies reported morbidity associated with the procedure, and the analysis of the heterogeneity test indicated χ^2 =2.61 and I²=0% low heterogeneity. Therefore, the fixed-

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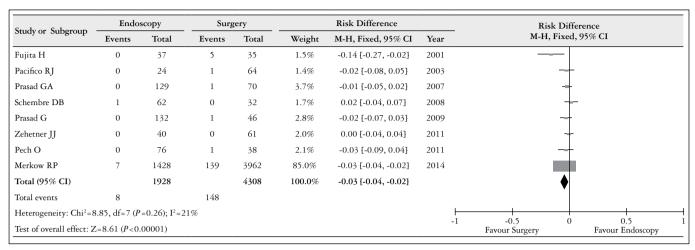


FIGURE 5. Risk difference in mortality associated with the procedure, for endoscopy and surgery therapies

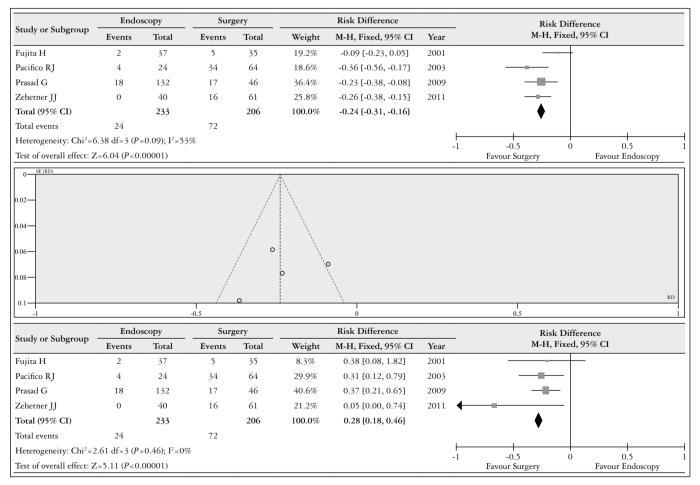


FIGURE 6. Risk ratio in morbidity associated with the procedure for endoscopy and surgery therapies

effects model was adopted, and the Risk Ratio was 0.28 (95% CI: 0.18, 0.46) (Figure 6). An analysis of the pooled data revealed differences between the two therapies. There was a statistically significant increase in the morbidity associated with the surgical therapy procedure.

Associated cancer mortality at 5 years

Risk difference associated with cancer mortality at 5 years for the endoscopy and surgery therapies.

Five studies reported an associated cancer mortality at 5 years, and the heterogeneity test indicated $\chi^2=16.57$ and

 $I^2=76\%$, which demonstrated a high level of heterogeneity. Therefore, the fixed-effects model was adopted, and the RD was -0.04 (95% CI: -0.06, -0.02, P=0.0004) (Figure 7). In the funnel plot analysis, the study by Prasad GA (2007) was identified as a source of heterogeneity. By consensus, the reviewers opted to withdraw this work. Four studies reported an associated cancer mortality at 5 years, and the heterogeneity test indicated $\chi^2=4.57$ and $I^2=34\%$, which demonstrated a low level of heterogeneity. Therefore, the fixed-effects model was adopted, and the RD was -0.04 (95% CI: -0.07, -0.02) (Figure 7). An analysis of the pooled data revealed differences between the two therapies. There was a statistically significant increase associated with cancer mortality at 5 years in the surgical therapy procedure.

Risk of bias across the studies

In relation to the heterogeneity across the studies because both the endoscopic and surgical treatment protocols are different in various parts of the world, even more of the therapies described in each study were different. It is typical to identify combination therapies, including EMR, ESD, PDT, or ablative therapies, in one or more sessions. Additionally, the surgical techniques described are different in each study. There are predominantly open approaches (TT, TH) in the older studies and minimally invasive approaches in the recent studies (MI).

In the analysis of the disease-free survival at 5 years, in the funnel plot and I² analysis identified publication bias in the study by Ngamruengphong S. (2013). After excluding this study, we observed a frank tendency to obtain better results

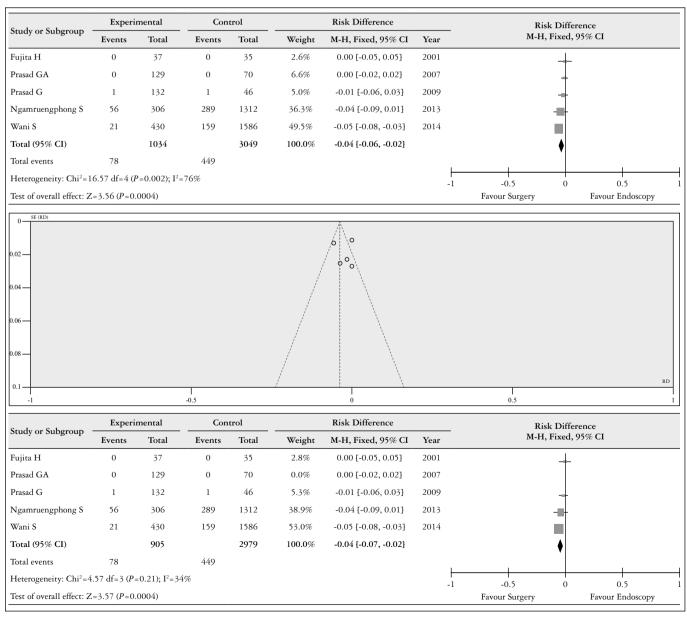


FIGURE 7. Risk difference in 5 years associated with câncer mortality for endoscopy and surgery therapies

with surgical therapies regarding disease-free survival at 5 years. However, it is important to consider that the excluded study was the most recent study and that it also had the largest population sample; therefore, it had more population homogeneity. This finding could explain an improvement in the results of the disease-free survival in this study.

In the analysis associated cancer mortality at 5 years, the funnel plot and I² analysis identified publication bias in the study by Prasad GA (2007). After excluding this study, we observed a frank tendency to obtain better results with endoscopy therapies and observed an increased mortality associated with cancer at 5 years with surgical therapies. More recent publications by the same author have shown more homogeneous results in relation to the other studies. Additionally, the bias was apparently given by population differences and may have been determined by the time lapse in which the study was conducted.

In the analysis of the morbidity associated with procedure, the funnel plot and I² analysis identified true heterogeneity. By consensus, the reviewers opted to calculate the risk ratio with the low heterogeneity. This true heterogeneity is determined by population differences and mainly interventions.

DISCUSSION

Esophagectomy is the traditional treatment for early neoplasia in the esophagus. It is associated with a substantial morbidity and mortality rate, and endoscopic management is an important modality in these patients. We reviewed the literature to compare the two therapies.

In this analysis, we included early cancer of the esophagus, adenocarcinoma, and squamous cell cancer. We categorized these as M1, M2, M3, or SM1 according to the classification of Paris. Several endoscopic treatments were used in this analysis, including endoscopic mucosal resection (EMR), endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD), photodynamic therapy (PDT), ratio frequency ablation (RFA), and argon plasma coagulation (APC). Several technical surgeries were also used in this analysis.

Esophagectomy is associated with more frequent major adverse events, which include bleeding, stenosis, anastomotic leakage, and others that cause extended hospitalization, high expenditure, and death. For the procedure-related morbidity

and the procedure-related mortality, the differences were significant and favoured the endoscopy therapy.

The survival rates after 3 and 5 years were not similar and showed superiority in the surgical therapies over time. The difference in esophageal neoplasia—related death between the two treatments was significant, and the endoscopic therapies were superior in the analysis of the mortality associated with cancer, excluding the population selection bias. Although the recurrence rate is higher than the endoscopic therapies, as demonstrated by the analysis of the 5-year disease-free survivals, apparently disease control can be achieved with monitoring, identification, and effective treatment of these recurrences.

Several limitations of the present study need to be considered. All of the studies included in this analysis were retrospective cohorts. Additionally, the characteristics of the patients were not comparable in a number of the studies, and the patients treated endoscopically were older and had more medical comorbidities than those treated surgically, which may lead to a significant bias in the results. Several endotherapies, including ESD, EMR, PDT, RFA, and APC, were used. The treatment efficacy of each modality was different. The operation type of esophagectomy and the level of experience of the operators were also different in all studies.

CONCLUSION

This analysis is limited by the availability of only retrospective studies. In this analysis, the superiority of the surgical therapies on survival is evident, which increases over time and is apparently influenced by biases in the selection of the population. When this bias is removed, endoscopy exhibits superiority in controlling the mortality related to cancer, but it has a high rate of disease recurrence. With regard to the comorbidity and the mortality associated with the procedure, endoscopy is superior. Prospective, controlled trials with large sample sizes are required to confirm the results of the current analysis.

Systematic review registration number: CRD42014013170.

Authors' contributions

All authors contributed significantly to conception and design, acquisition of data, analysis and interpretation of data and drafting the article.

Bustamante FAC, Hourneaux de Moura EG, Bernardo W, Sallum RAA, Ide E, Baba E. Terapias cirúrgicas versus endoscópicas para câncer precoce e displasia de alto grau no esôfago: uma revisão sistemática. Arq Gastroenterol. 2016,53(1):10-9.

RESUMO - Contexto - Cerca de 22% dos casos de câncer esofágico ocorrem como uma doença local e uma minoria é considerada lesão precoce, isto é, está limitada à mucosa ou submucosa. A ressecção endoscópica da mucosa, dissecção endoscópica da submucosa, a terapia fotodinâmica, a terapia laser e coagulação com plasma de argônio se desenvolveram como alternativas à ressecção cirúrgica para lesões precoces. Objetivo - O objetivo desta revisão sistemática é identificar estudos que comparam terapia endoscópica com terapia cirúrgica, quanto à sobrevivência, à sobrevivência livre de doença, à morbidade e a mortalidade associada ao procedimento e a mortalidade associada ao câncer. Fontes de dados - Revisão sistemática utilizando MEDLINE, COCHRANE, EMBASE, EBSCO, LILACS, Biblioteca da Universidade de São Paulo, BVS e ESCOPE. Seleção de estudo - Estudo randomizado controlado, ensaio clínico e estudo de coorte. Critérios - Estudos que comparam a sobrevivência, a sobrevivência livre de doença, a morbidade e a mortalidade associadas ao procedimento e mortalidade associada ao câncer na endoscópica e terapia cirúrgica para lesões precoces de câncer de esôfago. Extração de dados - Extração independente de artigos com dois autores usando campos de dados pré-definidos, incluindo indicadores de qualidade do estudo. Limitação - Somente estudos de coorte retrospectivos comparando endoscopia e a cirurgia foram recuperados. Resultados - As taxas de sobrevida após 3 e 5 anos foram diferentes e mostrou-se superioridade das terapias cirúrgicas em relação às endoscópicas ao longo do tempo. A endoscopia é superior no controle da mortalidade relacionada ao câncer com alta taxa de recorrência da doença. Em relação à morbidade e mortalidade associadas ao procedimento, a endoscopia é superior. Conclusão - Não há evidências de ensaios clínicos. Esta revisão sistemática mostrou superioridade na sobrevivência das terapias cirúrgicas. As terapias endoscópicas evidenciam superioridade no controle da mortalidade relacionada ao câncer com uma alta taxa de recorrência da doença. Além disso, a endoscopia correlaciona-se com menor morbidade e mortalidade associadas à intervenção. Ensaios controlados com grandes amostras são necessários para confirmar os resultados da análise atual.

DESCRITORES - Neoplasias esofágicas, cirurgia. Endoscopia gastrointestinal. Morbidade. Revisão.

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