

## Laparoscopic-assisted total gastrectomy for adenocarcinoma in a western country: safety and oncological issues

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### ABSTRACT

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**Background.** Laparoscopic total gastrectomy for adenocarcinoma is a widely diffused operation in eastern countries, but there are only a few reports from western centers. We assessed a single surgeon's experience at a single, nonacademic, community hospital.

**Methods.** Short-term outcome of patients undergoing laparoscopic total gastrectomy for adenocarcinoma (June 2005-March 2010) was assessed.

**Results.** Fourteen patients (5 males, 9 females; median age, 66.8 years [interquartile range, 59.7-71.8]) underwent laparoscopic total gastrectomy. The median operative time was 240 min. There were five stage 1 patients, five stage 2, and four stage 3; R0 resection was obtained in all 14 patients, and the median number of lymph nodes retrieved was 38. Mortality and overall morbidity rates were 0% and 35.7%, respectively.

**Conclusions.** The outcomes of laparoscopic total gastrectomy for adenocarcinoma performed by a well-trained laparoscopic surgeon working in a community hospital are good in terms of safety for the patients and response to the oncological criteria used in open surgery.

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**Key words:** gastric cancer, laparoscopic gastrectomy, morbidity, mortality, total gastrectomy.

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