Postoperative management of the older adults with cancer – The role of the surgeon

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• Introduction
• Factors contributing to postoperative complications
• Role of the surgeon
• Challenges
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• Role of the surgeon
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• Challenges
Review of literature

- ‘Cancer’ + ‘elderly/older’ + ‘postoperative complications’
- 01.10.2013 – 30.09.14
- Excluding case report/review(s)
- N=4
Review of literature

• ‘Cancer’ + ‘elderly/older’ + ‘surgery’
• 01.10.2013 – 30.09.14
• Excluding case report/review(s)
• N=30
Review of literature

• Retrospective
• Cohort or registry studies
• Few specifically focussed on postoperative complications
• Various tumour types
Factors contributing to Postoperative Complications

- Age
- Co-morbidities
- Preoperative cognitive function
- Intensity of surgery
Age

• The ‘older’ old patients
Co-morbidities

- Number, scores (eg CCI), polypharmacy
- Diabetes, nutritional status
- Including superficial tumours (eg breast)

Rocco et al 2013
Pei et al 2014
Takama et al 2014
Postoperative delirium

- N=251; >65 yrs; solid tumours
- Elective non-superficial surgery
- Preoperative cognition and intensity of surgery are strong predictors

Hempenius et al 2014
Intensity of surgery

• Extent and duration
• Non-superficial surgery (eg gastric, lung)
• Minimally invasive technique (eg laparoscopic, VATS)
• Quality of surgery

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• Challenges
Role of the surgeon

- Modifiable or not?
- ACT according to the contributory factors
- ACT early
Good surgeons know how to operate, better one when to operate, and the best when not to operate.
Role of the surgeon

- Selection of patients
- Optimisation of peri-operative care
Optimisation of POSTOPERATIVE care

• WHO? In high risk patients (Note: contributory factors)
Factors contributing to postoperative complications

- Age
- Co-morbidities
- Preoperative cognitive function
- Intensity of surgery
Optimisation of POSTOPERATIVE care

• WHO? In high risk patients  
  (Note: contributory factors)
• COMMON SENSE!
• HOW? Intensive vs appropriate care
Challenges

• CAUTION: low-level evidence though themes (common sense) have emerged

• FURTHER WORK required: general vs specific
State of the art in the assessment and management of oncogeriatric surgical patients

Results from
The SIOG surgical task force survey among ESSO and SSO members

POSTER 086
“To improve the care of older patients with cancer around the world.”

- Disseminate knowledge to promote and maintain a high common standard of healthcare in elderly cancer patients
- Advance the art, science and practice of oncology in elderly patients
- Create awareness and influence policies

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