Palliative Care In Oncology

Surgical Intervention

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Definition

Surgical interventions that help the patient and family achieve their goals for care and improved quality of life.

Surgery for palliation

Goals of palliative surgery

- Relieve symptoms for patients beyond cure when non-surgical measures are not feasible, not effective, or not expedient
- Palliation means patient should be better at the completion of the procedure

“It is axiomatic that one cannot palliatively improve an asymptomatic patient using a scalpel.”

R. G. Martin, 1982

Palliative improvement of function and quality of life

- Adequate control of pain
- Relief gastrointestinal and biliary obstruction
- Stop hemorrhage
- Supplement poor nutrition
- Airway obstruction
- Renal failure
- Rectal or urinary incontinence

Role of surgical intervention in palliative care

- Supportive intervention
- Palliative intervention

Role of surgical intervention in palliative care (Cont.)

Supportive intervention as part of multidisciplinary management plan

- Tissue sampling
- Vascular access: Venous: Arterial: Hepatic artery, extremity
- Enteral feeding
Role of surgical intervention in palliative care (Cont.)

Supportive intervention as part of multidisciplinary management plan

- Tissue sampling
- Vascular access
- Enteral feeding
Role of surgical intervention in palliative care (Cont.)

**Palliative intervention as treatment**

**Drainage of effusions**
- Ascites
- Pleural effusion
- Pericardial
Drainage of ascites

- Peritoneal dialysis catheter
- Peritoneovenous shunt
- Metallic stent or thrombolysis (IVC obstruction)

Role of surgical intervention in palliative care (Cont.)

Palliative intervention as treatment

Drainage of effusions
- Ascites
- Pleural effusion
- Pericardial

Obstruction

- Respiratory: trachea, bronchus
- Gastrointestinal: esophagus, stomach, small bowel, colon, biliary
- Urologic: ureter, bladder

Obstruction of trachea and bronchial lumen

- Thermal or laser ablation
- Photodynamic therapy
- Intra luminal irradiation
- Metallic stent
ERCP with stent

Palliative intervention as treatment

Control of pain
- Pancreatic: celiac plexus block
- Thoracoscopic splanchnicectomy

Palliative intervention as treatment

Role of surgical intervention in palliative care

Palliative tumor resection
- Bleeding
- Fistula
- “Toilet” resection
Liver metastasis from gastric carcinoid
CT demonstrates a large hypervascular mass with central necrosis in segment 5, representing a neuroendocrine tumor metastasis
Thank you