

Perioperative results for laparoscopic treatment of colorectal cancer at our institution show a low morbidity and mortality rate in these patients, with a clearly rising number in laparoscopically operated patients each year. Long term results are yet to be seen. Follow up with these patients will provide results later.

**Key words:** colorectal cancer, laparoscopy, outcomes

### Introduction

CRC is the third most commonly diagnosed cancer in males and the second most in females. The global incidence of CRC in 2018 was 1.8 million new cases and nearly 860,000 deaths (World Health Organization GLOBOCAN database). Age-standardized (world) incidence rates per 100,000 of CRC in both sexes is 19.7: 23.7 in males, and 16.2 in females. Rates of colorectal cancer in younger patients have been increasing over the past few years, making this disease even more important to observe. Recent advances in screening for early detection and treatment have reduced CRC mortality in developed nations, despite the circumstances of growing incidence.

The emergence of laparoscopy has brought forth a revolution in the surgical approach to colonic resections for cancers. Laparoscopic colectomy was first established in 1991. Initially, it was not widely accepted as a cancer treatment because there were some technical difficulties (working in multiple intra-abdominal quadrants, ligation of vessels and re-establishment of intestinal continuity, as well as oncological concerns which included the retrieval of lymph nodes, surgical resection margin and survival results). These controversies died down as surgeons gained more experience as well as the technological progress of instrumentation.<sup>1</sup> Large prospective randomized trials comparing these two approaches of treatment (Lap vs Open) have found no significant differences between open and laparoscopic colectomy, with regards to the intraoperative or postoperative complications (perioperative mortality rates, readmission or reoperation rates, or rate of surgical wound recurrence). Also the results of oncologic outcomes (cause-specific survival, disease recurrence, number of gathered lymph nodes), are likewise comparable.<sup>2</sup> Although laparoscopic surgery continues to be considered the foremost common approach for the treatment of colorectal cancer, new surgical technologies are emerging including transanal total mesorectal