

excision, laparoscopic lateral pelvic lymphatic node tissue dissection and robotic surgery.

Implementing laparoscopic treatment for CRC is by no means an easy task for even experienced surgeons and hospitals. It involves a steep learning curve and requires a dedicated team that, with persistent endurance, will accumulate enough skills for a safe and quality laparoscopy. This is why perioperative outcomes are very important in assessing the quality of laparoscopy itself as a treatment method for this disease.

The aim of this study is not to compare laparoscopic with the open treatment of colorectal cancer, nor to establish which is better, since many studies have already addressed this issue. It is simply to show our ability to perform laparoscopy for colorectal cancer in our clinic and to show the perioperative results from it.

### **Materials and methods**

Our paper represents a retrospective analysis of laparoscopic surgical treatment in patients with colorectal cancer who were operated on at the Clinic for Digestive Surgery, Skopje in the period from 2015 to 2019. The analysis covers the trend of the number of operated patients in the given period, the proportion of different surgical procedures, the relationship between laparoscopic and open access, the rates of perioperative morbidity and perioperative outcomes.

The incidence of patients with colorectal cancer in R.N. Macedonia is 25.7/100,000 inhabitants. The number of annual newly diagnosed cases is around 600, of which about 300-350 are surgically treated at the Clinic for Digestive Surgery in Skopje. Three-quarters of patients have advanced stages of the disease, at least stage III.

As a developing country, the first case of laparoscopic surgery at our Clinic coincides with the year when the world's first laparoscopic colectomy was performed, 1991. The first laparoscopic resection of the rectum in our country was performed in 2003.

The review of our data shows that in the period of 2015-2019, a total of 115 laparoscopic operations for colon and rectal cancer were performed at our Clinic. The numbers of laparoscopic treatment of the colon and rectum show a yearly upward trend. This trend has increased thus: 16 (2015),