Oncological and functional results of robotic salvage radical prostatectomy after permanent brachytherapy implants.

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Abstract

PURPOSE: To evaluate the feasibility of robotic salvage prostatectomy for local recurrence after permanent brachytherapy implants for prostate cancer.

PATIENTS AND METHODS: Seven patients were operated by robotic salvage prostatectomy with or without pelvic lymph node dissection between October 2007 and March 2012, for a local recurrence after iodine 125 permanent brachytherapy implants. Local recurrence was proved by prostate biopsies, once biochemical relapse was diagnosed and imaging assessment performed.

RESULTS: The average age of a patient at the time of diagnosis was 66 years (62-71 years). The median nadir prostate specific antigen (PSA) serum concentration after brachytherapy was 1.29ng/mL (0.6-2.1ng/mL), obtained after a median of 12 months (7-21 months). The average [PSA] before robotic salvage prostatectomy was 6.60ng/mL (4.17-13.80ng/mL). [PSA] at 1 and 3 months after prostatectomy was less than 0.05ng/mL in five patients. [PSA] remained below 0.05ng/mL for six patients at 12 and 24 months. One month after robotic salvage prostatectomy, all patients had at least partial urinary incontinence. At 12 and 24 months after robotic salvage prostatectomy four patients have regained full urinary continence. In terms of erectile function at 24 months, three patients retained erectile function with possible sexual intercourse.

CONCLUSION: Robotic salvage prostatectomy appears to be a reliable treatment in terms of oncological outcome with convincing results both for urinary continence and erectile function for selected patients with local recurrence after permanent brachytherapy implants.

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