



The MITAT topic issue on TaTME: a window on the possible advances in rectal surgery and medical publishing

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EDITORIAL

The MITAT topic issue on TaTME: a window on the possible advances in rectal surgery and medical publishing

Among the innovative minimally invasive techniques being introduced in general surgery, the transanal approach to total mesorectal excision is certainly one of the most interesting and promising due to its potential benefits in rectal cancer treatment.

Some of the people who pioneered and developed the transanal approach to total mesorectal excision contributed to this topic issue. Their work and their experiences have been collected with the hope of giving the journal readers the most objective and complete picture of this procedure possible. Our intent was not only to provide cutting edge information on the results of TaTME but also a stepwise guide to the technique and an insight into the hidden aspects and drawbacks of such a new procedure. The information offered in this issue may be useful for surgeons who are planning to start performing this procedure.

The laparoscopic revolution, besides the well-known impact on surgical practice and the quality of patients' lives, has been marked by a continuous progress in the quality of vision and imaging in surgery, which became of utmost relevance for surgeons and a prerequisite for performing advanced endoscopic and minimally invasive procedures.

Also, the endoscopic and imaging revolution in surgery has deeply changed the way surgeons are reporting their experience and clinical data in scientific conferences: Videos have become a basic component of most presentations and video sessions are often outstanding events within surgical meetings.

Maybe the time has come to change the way images are reproduced on a printed page: With this issue MITAT will introduce a new way of presenting figures. Thanks to the work and the initiative of Knol and Chadi, pictures in their article describing the technical steps of TaTME allow interaction with the reader: All you need is a smartphone and downloading an app, and the photo-in-video function will be on! A video clip linked to the printed image will start running, providing much more effective visual information on the described technique. Besides the amazing experience for readers, there is no need to say how great can be the potential impact on surgical training and learning.

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