Patient undergoing colectomy because of ulcerative colitis had a very high rate of surgical complications in clinical practice conditions


Methods

- Ulcerative colitis (UC) is a chronic inflammatory condition causing continuous mucosal inflammation affecting the rectum and a variable extent of the colon in continuity which is characterized by a relapsing and remitting course.
- Symptoms of UC are dependent upon extent and severity of disease, and most commonly include bloody diarrhea, rectal bleeding, and/or rectal urgency. Abdominal pain and systemic symptoms including fever and weight loss are also often reported.
- The primary goal of treating UC is to reduce the inflammation that triggers symptoms. In many cases, colectomy may be required when medical therapy fails.
- Colectomy is a staged-procedure with several surgeries and related inpatient hospitalization, which carries an important economic burden.
- Postcolectomy surgical procedures and complications occur frequently after colectomy.

Objective

- This study, part of the COSCOL study, aimed to establish the complications after colectomy for UC.

Results

- 209 patients with total colectomy due to UC were included (44.5% women, mean age 41.6 ± 13.2 years at initial colectomy). Mean duration of the disease before surgery was 5.0 ± 6.3 years (Table 1).
- UC was left-sided in 19.6% and extensive in 80.4%.
- In 35.4% of patients the initial colectomy was performed as an emergency surgery.
- Sixty percent of patients (125) required at least a hospital admission (surgical or medical) due to complications (Figure 1).
- Forty-two percent (89) of the patients required one or more additional surgeries because of complications of the initial procedure.
- Total number of additional surgeries was 165 (8 ± 1.3 per patient, range 0-8) (Table 2).
- Additional surgeries required 157 hospitalizations in 86 patients (55%) with mean length of surgical stay of 12.2 days (Table 3).

Conclusions

- In clinical practice more than 40% of patients required additional surgery because of complications of the initial colectomy. Surgeries were more common in patients who ended in a proctocolectomy with ileostomy.
- Thirty-nine percent of patients required hospitalization due to medical complications.
- Mean hospital stay per patient was 12.2 days for surgical complications and 8.6 days due to medical complications.

References
