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SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS OF THE INFLUENCE OF HUMAN EPIDERMAL GROWTH FACTOR RECEPTOR 2 (HER2) EXPRESSION AND AMPLIFICATION ON SURVIVAL IN PATIENTS WITH OESOPHAGEAL CANCER

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<sup>1</sup>D Chan,\* <sup>2</sup>C Twine, <sup>1</sup>W Lewis. <sup>1</sup>General Surgery, University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, UK; <sup>2</sup>General Surgery, Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, UK

Introduction Survival and recurrence rates following oesophagectomy remain poor despite the use of neoadjuvant therapy. Human epidermal growth factor receptor-2 (HER2) overexpression is associated with poorer survival in patients with gastric cancer and trastuzumab, a monoclonal antibody against HER2 has been shown to be effective in patients with advanced gastric cancer. However, the influence of HER2 overexpression in patients with oesophageal cancer has been equivocal. We performed a systematic review and meta-analysis to determine the influence of HER2 overexpression and amplification on outcomes in patients with oesophageal cancer. Methods A computerised search of MEDLINE was performed via PubMed and Embase from January 1990 to November 2011 using the MeSH subject headings: oesophageal neoplasm and human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 or HER2 or Neu or HER-2 or cerbB-2 or c-erbB2 or erbB2 or CD340 or p185 to identify studies investigating the influence of HER2 protein overexpression or gene amplification on survival in patients with oesophageal cancer. The meta-analysis was performed in line with the recommendations from the Cochrane Collaboration and PRISMA guidelines using Review Manager 5.1. Statistical analysis of dichotomous variables were carried out using OR as the summary statistic. Random-effects models were used and were reported with 95% CIs ORs represent the odds of death during the study interval in a patient who was HER2 positive compared with a patient who was HER2 negative. Results This review included 16 studies totalling 1549 patients with oesophageal cancer [1486 (96%) curative esophagectomy, 350 (22.6%) HER2 positive]. Immunohistochemistry was most commonly used to assess HER2 expression. 5-Year survival was significantly poorer in HER2 positive patients [OR 1.38, 95% CI (1.01 to 1.88), p=0.04]. Analysis according to histological type showed a significantly poorer survival in HER2 positive patients at

**Conclusion** HER2 overexpression and gene amplification was a poor prognostic indicator in patients with curable oesophageal cancer. This may provide the opportunity for wider application of therapeutic targeting of this receptor to improve the prognosis of patients with oesophageal cancer. A randomised trial is therefore needed to determine whether HER2 monoclonal antibody therapy improves survival in patients with curable oesophageal cancer.

5 years for squamous cell carcinoma [OR 2.63, 95% CI (1.25 to 5.52), p=0.01] but not adenocarcinoma [OR 1.33, 95% CI (0.89 to 2.00),

p=0.17]. However, sensitivity analysis for adenocarcinoma revealed

the same trend [OR 1.91, 95% CI (1.15 to 3.17), p=0.01].

Competing interests None declared.

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## VALUE OF PET-CT FOLLOWING NEO-ADJUVANT CHEMOTHERAPY TO PREDICT HISTOLOGICAL OUTCOME IN OESOPHAGEAL ADENOCARCINOMA

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<sup>1</sup>D Nasralla,\* <sup>1</sup>S Dwerryhouse, <sup>2</sup>D Hall, <sup>3</sup>J Searle, <sup>1</sup>H Barr, <sup>3</sup>I Lyburn. <sup>1</sup>Upper GI Surgery, Gloucester Royal Hospital, Gloucester, UK; <sup>2</sup>Cobalt Health, Gloucester, UK; <sup>3</sup>Radiology, Gloucester Royal Hospital, Gloucester, UK

**Introduction** Repeat FDG-PET-CT imaging after neo-adjuvant chemotherapy (NAC) for oesophageal adenocarcinoma is contro-

versial. Some authors claim repeat PET-CT enables clear management decisions to be made in carcinoma of the oesophagus  $^{\!1}$   $^2$  but this has been contradicted in a recent systematic review.  $^3$  We reviewed patients with oesophageal adenocarcinoma who underwent pre and post NAC PET-CT to assess if metabolic response of the tumour correlated with operative histology findings.

## Abstract PTU-175 Table 1

Group	N	Initial SUV <sub>max</sub> mean (SEM)	Final SUV <sub>max</sub> mean (SEM)	SUV ratio (final/initial)
Poorly differentiated	17	11.5 (1.5)	5.0 (0.8)	0.5 (0.1)
Moderately differentiated	10	8.0 (1.2)	4.1 (0.8)	0.5 (0.1)
T0-2	11	8.3 (1.4)	4.5 (0.8)	0.5 (0.1)
T3-4	16	11.4 (1.6)	5.1 (0.8)	0.5 (0.1)

**Methods** 27 patients with oesophageal adenocarcinoma underwent pre-and post-NAC PET-CT scan prior to oesophagectomy. The SUV $_{\rm max}$  pre and post NAC and the ratio of the final to initial SUV $_{\rm max}$  were calculated and compared with histological T and N stage, tumour area and differentiation.

**Results** No new metastatic lesions were discovered on post-NAC PET-CT. There was no significant difference between any of the parameters related to N stage. Initial SUV<sub>max</sub> was greater for tumour stage T3-4 than for T0-2 [11.4 (SEM 1.6) vs 8.3 (1.4), p=0.05] and for poorly differentiated than for moderately differentiated tumours [11.5 (1.5) vs 8.0 (1.2), p=0.05]. Final SUV<sub>max</sub> and the ratio of final to initial SUV<sub>max</sub> were not significantly different for either T-stage or tumour differentiation. A correlation was seen between SUV<sub>max</sub> and tumour area (0.39 vs 0.7).

 $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{Conclusion} \ \, \text{Initial SUV}_{\text{max}} \ \, \text{from PET-CT carried out before NAC is} \\ \text{greater for tumours which are poorly differentiated than moderately} \\ \text{differentiated, and for stage T3 or T4. The SUV}_{\text{max}} \ \, \text{from PET-CT} \\ \text{studies carried out after the completion of NAC did not give additional information in this respect. The only area where it did offer potentially valuable information was correlation between tumour area and SUV}_{\text{max}} \ \, \text{although this is unlikely to influence patient management. Post-NAC PET-CT did not predict histological outcome in our patients nor influence their management.} \\ \end{array}$ 

Competing interests None declared.

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## CENTRAL OBESITY AND AGE PREDICT CARDIA MUCOSAL LENGTH IN HEALTHY VOLUNTEERS: EVIDENCE FOR AN ACQUIRED ENTITY

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<sup>1</sup>E V Robertson,\* <sup>1</sup>M H Derakhshan, <sup>1</sup>A A Wirz, <sup>1</sup>Y Y Lee, <sup>2</sup>S A Hanvey, <sup>2</sup>S A Ballantyne, <sup>3</sup>J J Going, <sup>1</sup>K E L McColl. <sup>1</sup>Medicine and Cardiovascular Sciences, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, UK; <sup>2</sup>Department of Radiology, Gartnavel General Hospital, Glasgow, UK; <sup>3</sup>Department of Pathology, Glasgow Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, UK

**Introduction** Oesophageal adenocarcinoma is thought to arise from columnar metaplasia of distal oesophageal mucosa caused by gastro-oesophageal reflux. Obesity is a risk factor for this process. There is some evidence that "normal" cardia may be an acquired mucosa

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arising through the same pathway and predisposing to adenocarcinoma development at this site. The influence of obesity on the aetiology of cardia mucosa is unknown.

**Methods** 62 *H pylori* negative healthy volunteers (age 18–74 years) were recruited. BMI, waist circumference and gender were recorded. MRI (Phillips 1.5T) was performed for quantification of visceral and subcutaneous fat (average of three axial planes; L2, L3 and L4). Upper GI endoscopy was performed with biopsies of the gastrooesophageal junction. Biopsies were taken in a craniocaudal direction and targeted to include enough squamous mucosa to confirm position. Intra-procedure pathological feedback was available and two to three biopsies were taken to optimise accuracy. Junctional biopsies were assessed to determine cardia length, considered measurable provided there was consecutive squamous, cardia and oxyntic mucosal types present. Non-parametric correlations were examined between BMI, waist circumference and cardia length and between fat distribution quantified by MRI and cardia length. Regression analysis (Stepwise method) incorporating age, BMI, waist circumference and MRI total fat was used to determine predictors of cardia length.

**Results** 37 of 62 volunteers had at least one junctional biopsy including squamous, cardia and oxyntic mucosa; median total length  $6.5 \, \mathrm{mm}$  (IQR 1.6). Median cardia mucosal length was  $2.5 \, \mathrm{mm}$  (IQR  $1.5 \, \mathrm{mm}$ ). Length of cardia mucosa increased with age (R=0.457, p=0.004) and with waist circumference (R=0.466, p=0.004). A correlation was also seen with intra-abdominal fat (R=0.374, p=0.027) and total fat measured by MRI (R=0.389, p=0.021) but not with subcutaneous fat (p=0.091). There was no significant correlation with BMI. On regression analysis the independent predictors of cardia mucosa length were waist circumference (Standardised coefficient 0.342, p=0.035) and age (Standardised coefficient 0.322, p=0.046). Intestinal metaplasia at the cardia was seen in only 4 of 62 volunteers.

**Conclusion** These findings suggest that cardia mucosa may be acquired with increasing age through a process of distal squamous columnar metaplasia accelerated by central obesity. A possible mechanism is opening of the distal portion of the lower oesophageal sphincter and short segment acid reflux.

Competing interests None declared.

PTU-177

REDUCTION IN LENGTH OF STAY FOR PATIENTS
UNDERGOING MAJOR UPPER GASTROINTESTINAL
RESECTIONS WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF ENHANCED
RECOVERY PACKAGES

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<sup>1</sup>E Gemmill,\* <sup>1</sup>J Tang, <sup>2</sup>D Humes, <sup>3</sup>P Daliya, <sup>1</sup>N Welch, <sup>1</sup>S Parsons, <sup>1</sup>J Catton. <sup>1</sup>UGI Surgery, Nottingham City Hospital, Nottingham, UK; <sup>2</sup>Nottingham Digestive Disease Centre and Biomedical Research Unit, Nottingham, UK; <sup>3</sup>General Surgery, Nottingham City Hospital, Nottingham, UK

**Introduction** The high mortality and morbidity associated with resection for gastro-oesophageal malignancy has resulted in a conservative approach to the post-operative management of this patient group. In August 2009 an Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) pathway tailored for patients undergoing resection for gastro-oesophageal malignancy was introduced. We aimed to assess the impact of this change in practice on standard clinical outcomes. **Methods** We performed a retrospective review of two cohorts of patients undergoing resection for gastro-oesophageal malignancy before (08/08–07/09) and after (08/09–07/10) the implementation of the ERAS pathway. Data were collected on demographics, interventions, length of stay, morbidity and in hospital mortality. **Results** There were 53 and 55 gastro-oesophageal resections undertaken in each year for malignant disease. The median length of stay

for both gastric and oesophageal resection decreased from 15 to 11 days (p<0.001) following the implementation of the ERAS pathway. There was no increase in morbidity (gastric resection 23.1% vs 5.3% and oesophageal resection 25.9% vs 16.7%) or mortality (gastric resection no deaths and oesophageal resection 1.8% vs 3.6%) associated with the changes. There was a significant decrease in the number of oral contrast studies used following oesophageal resection with a reduction from 21 (77.8%) in 2008–2009 to 6 (16.7%) in 2009–2010 ( $\chi^2$ , p<0.0001).

**Conclusion** The introduction of an enhanced recovery programme following gastro-oesophageal surgery resulted in a significant decrease in length of median patient stay in hospital without a significant increase in associated morbidity and mortality.

Competing interests None declared.

PTU-178

MEASUREMENT OF ESOPHAGO-GASTRIC JUNCTION CROSS-SECTIONAL AREA AND DISTENSIBILITY BY ENDOFLIP® (ENDOLUMENAL FUNCTIONAL LUMEN IMAGING PROBE) FOR THE DIAGNOSIS OF PATIENTS WITH GASTRO-ESOPHAGEAL REFLUX DISEASE (GERD)

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<sup>1</sup>E Tucker,\* <sup>2</sup>R Sweis, <sup>2</sup>A Anggiansah, <sup>1</sup>E Telakis, <sup>3</sup>J Wright, <sup>4</sup>K Knowles, <sup>2</sup>T Wong, <sup>1</sup>M Fox. <sup>1</sup>NIHR Biomedical Research Unit, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK; <sup>2</sup>Oesophageal Laboratory, Guys and St Thomas's NHS Foundation Trust, London, UK; <sup>3</sup>Division of Gl Surgery, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK; <sup>4</sup>Motility Unit, Nottingham University Hospital Trust, Nottingham, UK

**Introduction** EndoFLIP® (Crospon, Ireland) is an innovative device designed to assess the cross sectional area (CSA) and distensibility of the esophagogastric junction (EGJ) by combined impedance planimetry and pressure measurement. Initial studies have suggested that this probe may distinguish between gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GERD) patients and healthy volunteers (HV).

**Aim** To assess the diagnostic agreement of EndoFLIP® measurements with clinical and physiologic GERD diagnosis. **Methods** 22 healthy volunteers, (HV; female=16, age 21–46, mean

body mass index (BMI) 24.3 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) and 20 patients with GERD symptoms (female=14, age 19-78, mean BMI 33.2 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) were studied. Patients were older (p<0.0001) and had greater BMI (p=0.001). Median EGJ CSA and distensibility at 20 ml and 30 ml EndoFLIP® balloon volume were measured. A Bravo capsule (Given Imaging, Israel) was attached 6 cm above the Z-line and a 48 h wireless esophageal pH recording acquired. The ability of EndoFLIP® measurements to discriminate (1) patient group and (2) individuals with pathologic acid exposure (>5.6% time <pH4) was calculated. Results Complete measurements were acquired except in one patient with early detachment of Bravo capsule. Distensibility could not be measured in one patient and one volunteer with negative endoFLIP® balloon pressures. 7/22 (32%) HVs and 7/19 (37%) of patients had oesophagitis (six patients with hiatus hernia). 3/22 (14%) HVs and 9/19 (47%) patients had pathologic acid exposure (p=0.126). EGJ CSA was higher in healthy volunteers than the patient group, at 20 ml (p=0.018) and 30 ml (p=0.058, Abstract PTU-178 figure 1) endoFLIP® balloon volume. EGJ distensibility was lower in patients than HVs at 20 ml (p=0.001) and 30 ml balloon volume, (p=0.020, Abstract PTU-178 figure 1). EndoFLIP® measurements were similar in participants with and without pathologic acid exposure (median CSA 40 mm<sup>2</sup> vs 34 mm<sup>2</sup> p=1.0 at 20 ml, 98 mm<sup>2</sup> vs 107 mm<sup>2</sup>, p=0.789 at 30 ml) and distensibility at 20 ml (p=0.574) and 30 ml balloon volume (p=0.704). Post-hoc analysis revealed an inverse association between BMI and CSA  $(R^2=0.214, p=0.003)$  and negative association with distensibility  $(R^2=0.211, p=0.003)$ . BMI was associated also with a trend to

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increased acid exposure (p=0.116).