RPLND for early stage GCTs: Minimizing Treatment related Morbidity

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Testicular cancer

- Most life years lost for nonpediatric cancers
- Most common cancer in men between 18-45
- 10,000 new cases/year
- 460 deaths/year





Testicular cancer shrouded in uncertainty

- Diagnosis
- Stage I disease: Who will relapse?
- Stage II:
 - •pN0?
 - Develop metastases?
- Post-chemo NSGCT/seminoma
 - Fibrosis necrosis only?





Testicular Germ Cell Tumors

Paramount to minimize toxicity while maintaining excellent oncologic outcomes



Outline

- **Clinical Scenarios (Stage I and Stage II disease)**
- Introduction to microRNAs for GCT diagnostics
- **Clinical application across the GCT spectrum**





Stage I disease



Stage II disease



Post-chemotherapy





5 year survival of patients with testis cancer

	Seminoma	Proportion of cases	NSGCT	Proportion of cases
Stage I	99%	86%	95-99%	70%
Stage II	95%	7%	90%	20%
Stage III	80-85%	5%	70-80%	10%

Stephenson, Campbell's urology, 10th edition

THE BULK OF GCT PATIENTS HAVE EARLY STAGE DISEASE WITH EXCELLENT SURVIVAL

Stage I Seminoma

- Healthy 23 yo male presents with painless enlarging left testis mass
- No Hx trauma, infection
- No prior Hx UDT
- Exam: large palpable firm mass involving left testis
- AFP 2; HCG 129
- Orchiectomy: 4.5 cm seminoma, + Rete testis invasion
- Markers normalize, imaging negative





Stage I Seminoma Treatment Principles

- Survival approaches 100% independent of timing/type of treatment
- Treatment options
 - Surveillance
 - Single Cycle Carboplatin
 - Adjuvant Radiotherapy
- Adjuvant therapy "for all" over-treats vast majority of patients
 - & associated with acute and chronic toxicities
- Risk stratification?
 - Size
 - Rete testis invasion

Stage I Seminoma – Surveillance



69% of relapses occurred <2 yrs 7% of relapses occurred >6 yrs

Fig 1. Relapse-free rate for all cases from date of orchidectomy.

Warde JCO 2002

<u>Stage I Seminoma – Surveillance</u>

Tumor Size and Rete Testis involvement are risk factors for relapse



IMAGING ADVANCES: MRI

Imaging Modality and Frequency in Surveillance of Stage I Seminoma Testicular Cancer: Results From a Randomized, Phase III, Noninferiority Trial (TRISST)



TRISST trial

- Design and endpoint: Noninferiority RCT of stage I seminoma surveillance
- Primary endpoint: 6 year incidence of stage ≥ IIC relapse

	3CT (n=166)	7 CT (n=169)	3 MRI (n=167)	7 MRI (n=167)
Relapse >IIC	8 (5.1%)	0 (0%)	1 (0.6%)	1 (0.6%)
Relapse >3cm LN	10 (6.4%)	3 (1.8%)	5 (3.1%)	6 (3.6%)

Conclusions:

MRI not inferior to CT

3 scans not inferior to 7

However: MORE recurrences w LN>3cm and stage ≥ IIC with 3 CT.

AUA guidelines 2023: Surveillance for stage I seminoma

NCCN (2023)	Year (at month intervals)					
	1	2	3	4	5	
H&P	Every 3-6m	Every 6m	Every 6-12m	Annually	Annually	
CT ap or MRI	At 4-6, and 12m Every 6m Every 6-12m Every 12-24m					
CXR	As clinically indicated, consider chest CT in symptomatic pts					



Stage I seminoma: updated surveillance schedule (AUA 2023)					
	Years 1-2	Years 3-5	> Year 5		
H&P, CT A±P	Every 6m	Every 6-12m	If clinically indicated		

Stage I seminoma: Conclusions

- Relapse is uncommon (~15%) all comers
- Excellent Outcomes with surveillance (treatment at relapse)
- In general, surveillance is recommended as the preferred option for stage I seminoma



NCCN Guidelines Version 1.2023 Testicular Cancer - Pure Seminoma



Stage IIA/B seminoma

Radiation and chemotherapy are standard options for stage II seminoma

- 30-36 Gy radiation
- Good-risk directed chemotherapy (BEPx3 or EPx4)

Relapse-free survival at 5 years is excellent (95%)

20-30% of patients with clinically detectable nodes will be pN0 at RPLND

Another emerging concept for clinical stage II SEMINOMA



WHY RPLND?

	Primary Ch Primary		
	Cardiac disease	Secondary Malignancies	
Survival	HTN Diabetes S		Survivorship
	Metabolic syndrome	Cognitive impairment	
	Secondary Malignancies	Anxiety/Depression	
	Ototoxcity	Hypogonadism/Fertility	
	Neurotoxicity	Pulmonary complications	

Courtesy Clint Cary

JOURNAL OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

Multi-Institutional Assessment of Adverse Health Outcomes Among North American Testicular Cancer Survivors After Modern Cisplatin-Based Chemotherapy

Chunkit Fung, Howard D. Sesso, Annalynn M. Williams, Sarah L. Kerns, Patrick Monahan, Mohammad Abu Zaid, Darren R. Feldman, Robert J. Hamilton, David J. Vaughn, Clair J. Beard, Christian K. Kollmannsberger, Ryan Cook, Sandra Althouse, Shirin Ardeshir-Rouhani-Fard, Steve E. Lipshultz, Lawrence H. Einhorn, Sophie D. Fossa, and Lois B. Travis, for the Platinum Study Group



Fig 1. Proportion of testicular cancer survivors (TCSs) with excellent, very good, good, fair, and poor self-reported health by number of adverse health outcomes (AHOs). *P* value for association of number of AHOs with self-reported health was < .01 (Mantel 1df χ^2 test of trend). Self-reported health was not indicated by one participant with one to two AHOs and one participant with three to four AHOs.

- 952 Testis cancer survivors treated with either BEPx3, BEPx4, or EPx4
- Median time since chemotherapy, 4.3 years
 - 79.6% reported at least 1 Adverse health outcome
- Self-reported health Fair/Poor
 - \succ 1% with No AHO vs. 16.8% with > 5 AHO's

Stage II seminoma

Significant risk of long-term toxicity →

novel strategies to limit toxicity



JCO 2007: van den Belt-Dusebouit

n Diego Health

Surgery for Early Stage Metastatic Seminoma

- Phase II trial of RPLND as First-Line Treatment for Testicular Seminoma With Isolated Retroperitoneal Disease (1-3cm)
- Pure testicular seminoma
- Stage I with 1-3cm relapse
- Stage IIA/IIB
 - No more than 2 LN (1-3cm) in <u>any dimension</u>
- LN must be in RPLND template
- Imaging within 6 weeks of surgery
- Normal serum markers (1.5X ULN)

Surgery for Early Stage Metastatic Seminoma



- 33 month follow up
- Recurrence in 12 patients (22%)
 - Chemotherapy: 10 pts
 - Repeat Resection: 2 patients
- Time to recurrence: 10.2 months
- 100% overall survival

<u>Trial</u>		Ν	F/U	Relapse	DOD
SEMS ¹	US	55	24	22%	0%
PRIMETEST	Ger	30	21	31%	0%
COTRIMS ¹	Ger	21	21	9.8%	0%

15.4%²

Surgery for Early Stage Metastatic Seminoma

	Short term (Clavien Dindo grade)
1	Incision ulceration (I)
2	Ileus (II)
3*	Ileus (II)
4*	Pulmonary embolism (II)
5	Chylous ascites (III)
	Long term (>30 days)
1	Incision hernia- radiographic
2	Anejaculation- bilateral dissection, non-nerve sparing
3	Anejaculation - bilateral dissection, non-nerve sparing
4	Anejaculation - left modified template, non-nerve sparing
sam	e patient



Contemporary RPLND





Stage II seminoma considerations

- Surgery may allow for safe avoidance of chemotherapy/radiation therapy
- Very low long-term toxicity
- Further optimization
 - Stage I with relapse vs Stage II at presentation
 - Bilateral templates
 - Short-interval imaging to optimize patient selection

AUA guidelines 2023

- Seminoma stage IIA/IIB with LN ≤ 3cm; recommend RT or cisplatin-based combination chemotherapy based on shared decision making
 - For patients who wish to avoid long term toxicity, RPLND may be offered

Seminoma stage IIB with LN>3cm, recommend cisplatin-based combination chemotherapy



NSGCT: 30% risk of relapse





Current Predictors

- Current risk stratification is rudimentary at best
 - NSGCT:
 - + LVI and high embryonal carcinoma \rightarrow 50% occult metastases
- Serum tumor markers only expressed

NCCN

60% of NSGCT



Surveillance vs Treatment

Surveillance

- Pro: Noninvasive
- Con: 15-45% relapse1

<u>Single Cycle</u> Adjuvant BEP

- Pro: Less toxic, <5% relapse
- Con: High overtreatment



- Pro: Diagnostic and therapeutic
- Con: Invasive surgery





Nayan M. Eur Urol. 2017
 Tandstad T. J Clin Oncol. 2009

Surveillance vs Treatment

Stage IA Observation is the standard Caveat: If malignant transformation



32. Clinicians should recommend RPLND or chemotherapy for patients with stage IIA NSGCT with normal postorchiectomy serum (S0) AFP and hCG. (Moderate Recommendation; Evidence Level: Grade B)

Stage IB Balanced discussion of Surveillance, RPLND, BEPx1 Favor surveillance

Outcome of Men With Relapses After Adjuvant Bleomycin, Etoposide, and Cisplatin for Clinical Stage I Nonseminoma



What do national guidelines say?

National Comprehensive Cancer Network®



Stage II Nonseminoma



Guideline Statement 32

Clinicians should recommend RPLND or chemotherapy for patients with stage IIA NSGCT with normal postorchiectomy serum (S0) AFP and hCG. (Moderate Recommendation; Evidence Level: Grade B)

Guideline Statement 33

In patients with clinical stage IIB NSGCT and normal post-orchiectomy serum AFP and hCG, clinicians should recommend risk-appropriate, multi-agent chemotherapy. (Moderate Recommendation; Evidence Level: Grade B). Clinicians may offer RPLND as an alternative to chemotherapy to select patients with clinical stage IIB NSGCT with normal post-orchiectomy serum AFP and hCG. (Conditional Recommendation; Evidence Level: Grade C)

Stage II Nonseminoma

Primary Retroperitoneal Lymph Node Dissection for Patients With Pathologic Stage II Nonseminomatous Germ Cell Tumor—N1, N2, and N3 Disease: Is Adjuvant Chemotherapy Necessary?

Isamu Tachibana, MD¹; Sean Q. Kern, MD¹; Antoin Douglawi, MD¹; Yan Tong, MS²; Mohammad Mahmoud, MD¹; Timothy A. Masterson, MD¹; Nabil Adra, MD³; Richard S. Foster, MD¹; Lawrence H. Einhorn, MD³; and Clint Cary, MD, MPH¹



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Time (months)

Optimizing outcomes of primary RPLND

- Stage I disease
 - Close evaluation of primary landing zones
 - If considering primary RPLND, imaging within 2 weeks markers within 1 week
- Stage II disease
 - De novo stage II versus development of low volume metastases on surveillance

- Short-interval imaging (6-8 weeks) prior to RPLND
 - Select patients that have involution/pN0
 - Select out patients that may develop metastases
 - Primary landing zone
 - Rule of 3→suboptimal candidate
 - >3 nodes
 - >3 cm

Testicular cancer shrouded in uncertainty

- Diagnosis
- Stage I disease: Who will relapse?
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Testicular cancer shrouded in uncertainty

Sensitive and specific biomarkers may allow for precise, individualized treatment recommendations

Circulating miR-371a-3p holds the promise to be such a biomarker





Current GCT serum markers are underwhelming

Conventional tumor markers lack specificity:
 •AFP: HCC, liver disease, familial
 •hCG: bladder, renal, gastric, lung, marijuana, cross-reactivity with LH
 •LDH: any clinical setting with rapid cell turnover

GCT histological subtype	AFP	hCG
Yolk sac tumour	++	-
Seminoma	-	±
Embryonal carcinoma	±	±
Choriocarcinoma	-	++
Teratoma	±	-

 Table 1 | Serum AFP and hCG levels in GCTs²²

AFP, α-fetoprotein; GCT, germ cell tumour; hCG, human chorionic gonadotrophin. ++, strongly positive levels; ±, levels may be negative or moderately positive; –, negative levels.



Micro RNAs (miRNA)

What are miRNA?

- Small non coding RNAs
- Epigenetic gene regulation
- Released from nucleus
- Intercellular communication
- Dysregulated in many malignancies



- 1. Mitchell PS. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2008
- 2. Li Z Nutr Metab (Lond). 2018

A panel of 8 miRNAs segregate malignant GCT



Palmer, et al. Cancer Res, 2010.

Serum miRNAs are sensitive to malignant GCT

4 year old male

History - abnormal gait & constipation *Serum AFP* - 82,340 kU/L *Histology* - malignant GCT (YST)







Murray et al. Am J Clini Pathol, 2011

Four serum microRNA signature of malignant GCTs



Serum microRNAs outperform conventional AFP and HCG markers



Histology: miR-371a-3p vs conventional markers

Parameter Studied	AFP	hCG	miR-371a-3p
Seminoma	<3%	18-31%	87%
Non-seminoma	60-70%	53%	94%
Embryonal carcinoma	40%	25%	>90%
Yolk sac tumor	>95%	<5%	>90%
Choriocarcinoma	<5%	>95%	>90%
Teratoma	-	-	<5%
Mixed GCT	Variable	Variable	~90%
Extragonadal	Variable	Variable	>90%
Non-GCT	12%	14%	6%
Half-life after orchiectomy	5-7 days	1.5-3 days	12 hours
Decrease during/after chemotherapy	+	+	+

adityabagrodia @

Clinical Scenario: Pre-orchiectomy



Real-World Application of Pre-Orchiectomy miR-371a-3p Test in Testicular Germ Cell Tumor Management

Table 1. Patient characteristics at presentation

	Via	able GCT	(Control	p Value
No.	58		11		
Median age (IQR)	30	(26 - 40)	54	(43-56)	< 0.0001
% Race (No.):					
White	48	(28)	36	(4)	
Hispanic	48	(28)	36	(4)	
Black	2	(1)		-	
Asian	2	(1)	28	(3)	
% Histology (No.):					
Seminoma	50	(29)		-	
NSGCT	50	(29)		-	
Pure teratoma		-	9	(1)	
Benian		-	55	(6)	
Levdia cell tumor		-	18	(2)	
Secondary metastasis		-	18	(2)	
% Composite stage (No.):					
	78	(45)	9	(1)	
II.	10	(6)	9	(1)	
III	12	(7)	27	(3)	
N/A		-	55	(6)	







Serum miR-371a-3p at diagnosis in malignant GCTs



n=874; 616 malignant GCT vs. 258 controls



Conclusion

- miRNA 371 has excellent diagnostic accuracy in the pre-orchiectomy setting
- miRNA 371 performs better than conventional STMs to predict pathology



Stage II disease

Post-chemotherapy

NSGCT: 30% risk of relapse

- HPI: 24 year old with right T2N0M0S0 NSGCT 50% EC, 45% Teratoma, 5% YST
- Elects for RPLND: 1/33 nodes positive 0.5 cm focus of EC

Pre-RPLND miRNA-371a-3p POSITIVE

Serum miR-371a-3p declines after orchiectomy in stage 1 disease

n=874; 616 malignant GCT vs. 258 controls

Dieckmann et al, Journal Clinical Oncology, 2019 UC San Diego Health

Serum MicroRNA-371a-3p Levels Predict Viable Germ Cell Tumor in Chemotherapy-naïve Patients Undergoing Retroperitoneal Lymph Node Dissection

> John T. Lafin^{a,1}, Nirmish Singla^{a,1}, Solomon L. Woldu^a, Yair Lotan^a, Cheryl M. Lewis^b, Kuntal Majmudar^b, Anna Savelyeva^a, Payal Kapur^b, Vitaly Margulis^{a,c}, Douglas W. Strand^a, Matthew J. Murray^{d,e}, James F. Amatruda^f, Aditya Bagrodia^{a,*}

- Serum collection in chemotherapy-naïve patients prior to RPLND
- Bilateral full-template or extended modified template RPLND
- RPLND histology classification:
 - Benign
 - Viable GCT (seminoma or NSGCT)
 - Teratoma only

EUROPF

Results: Clinicopathologic characteristics

Number of patients	24
Median age at RPLND (IQR), years	27 (21-33)
Orchiectomy histology # (%):	
-Benign	2 (8.3)
-Pure seminoma	4 (16.7)
-Pure NSGCT	2 (8.3)
-Mixed NSGCT	16 (66.7)
pT stage # (%):	
-рТ0	2 (8)
-pT1	13 (54)
-pT2	9 (38)
Clinical N stage # (%)	
-cN0	12 (50.0)
-cN1	9 (37.5)
-cN2	3 (12.5)
Composite clinical stage # (%):	
-1	12 (50.0)
-11	12 (50.0)

🛛 🖉 @adityabagrodia

Results: Clinicopathologic characteristics

RPLND histology # (%):	
-Benign	10 (41.7)
-Viable GCT (seminoma or NSGCT)	11 (45.8)
-Teratoma only	3 (12.5)
pN stage # (%):	
-pN0	10 (41.7)
-pN1	6 (25.0)
-pN2	7 (29.2)
-pN3	1 (4.2)

Performance characteristics of serum miRNAs in detecting viable GCT

miRNA	Sensitivity	Specificity	PPV	NPV	Accuracy	
miR-371a	100%	92%	92%	100%	96%	
miR-367	73%	85%	80%	79%	79%	
miR-372	100%	31%	55%	100%	63%	
miR-373	55%	92%	86%	71%	75%	
miR-375	0%	95%	0%	75%	69%	

Next steps: incorporate miRNAs into a clinical trial

miR-371a-3p based clinical trial: EA8221

Conclusion

- miRNA 371 is promising in post-orchiectomy setting
- Early post-orch miR-371 may not predict relapse
 - Likely a sensitivity issue

Case

- 44 year old with right testicular mass: 45% sem, 30% YST, 20% EC, 5% teratoma
- Repeat imaging in 8 weeks
 - No change

- Scheduled for RPLND in 8 weeks with repeat imaging 1 week prior
- Bilateral Full template RPLND
 - 0.5 cm focus of seminoma in 1/18 paraaortic LNs
 - 3 mm focus of seminoma in 1/14 interaortocaval LNs

Pre-RPLND miRNA-371a-3p POSITIVE

miR in Stage II Disease

- Prospective serum collection from 32 consecutive chemotherapy-naïve patients immediately prior to RPLND
- Bilateral full-template or extended modified template RPLND performed
- RPLND histology classification:
 - Benign
 - Viable GCT (seminoma or NSGCT)
 - Teratoma only

Patient characteristics (n=32)

Age	Years	Median (IQR)	28 (23.5-35.0)
pT Stage	рТ0	N (%)	2 (6.3)
	pT1		14 (43.8)
	рТ2		16 (50.0)
cN Stage	cN0	N (%)	12 (37.5)
	cN1		15 (46.9)
	cN2		4 (12.5)
	cN3		1 (3.1)
Clinical Stage (CS)	CSI	N (%)	12 (37.5)
	CS II		20 (62.5)
RPLND Histopathology	Benign	N (%)	9 (28.1)
	Seminoma		12 (37.5)
	Non-Seminoma		11 (34.4)
pN Stage	pN0	N (%)	9 (28.1)
	pN1		11 (34.4)
	pN2		11 (34.4)
	pN3		1 (3.1)
Pathologic Stage (PS)	PS I	N (%)	9 (28.1)
	PS II		23 (71.9)

Performance of serum miR-371a-3p test in patients with minimal residual disease.

• miRNA 371 is promising for stage II disease

Stage I disease

Stage II disease

Post-chemotherapy

AGCT 1531: A Phase III Study of Active Surveillance for Adult and Pediatric Patients with Germ Cell Tumors

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S1823:A PROSPECTIVE OBSERVATIONAL COHORT STUDY TO ASSESS miRNA 371 FOR OUTCOME PREDICTION IN PATIENTS WITH NEWLY DIAGNOSED GERM CELL TUMORS

- Inclusion Criteria:
 - Stage I-IIA: Seminoma/NSGCT

Standard Surveillance imaging

Germ cell tumor multi-disciplinary clinic every Tuesday

Robotic RPLND in appropriately selected patients

Conclusions

Early-stage testicular cancer management must maintain oncologic outcomes and prevent long term toxicity

Surgery for early-stage disease is curative in most patients at high volume centers

microRNAs likely change the way we diagnose and manage patients

Thank you! Aditya Bagrodia bagrodia@health.ucsd.edu 423-967-5848

