"National Trends in Elective Ileal Pouch-anal Anastomosis for Ulcerative Colitis: Potential Implications for Fellowship Training"

Background: Recent national trends and distribution of ileal pouch-anal anastomosis (IPAA) procedures for patients with ulcerative colitis (UC) are unknown. We examined the frequency of use of elective IPAA procedures among patients with UC and the distribution of IPAA procedures across U.S. academic medical centers.

Methods: Data were obtained from the University HealthSystem Consortium on patients with a primary diagnosis of UC admitted electively between 2012 and 2015.

Results: The mean age of the study population (n=6,875) was 41 years and 57% were men. Among these, one-third (n=2,469) underwent an IPAA, while two-thirds (n=4,568) underwent colectomy, proctectomy, proctocolectomy or other procedures. The proportion of IPAA cases among all elective admissions was relatively stable at 33-35% during the years under study. A total of 134 centers, out of 140 centers in the UHC, performed IPAA. The median number of cases performed annually was 1.9 [IQR 0.8-4.5]. Nearly half (45%) of the cases was performed by nine academic centers (mean annual number of IPAA: 30). Overall, only a total of 30 centers performed ≥ five elective IPAA cases annually.

Conclusions: Although the frequency of elective IPAA surgery in recent years has been stable, nearly half of IPAA cases was performed at only nine centers. The concentration of IPAA cases at high-volume centers, and the steady number of cases performed annually, has potential implications for fellowship training, patient outcomes and access to care.

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