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Narrow band imaging for bladder cancer



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Received 2 March 2016; received in revised form 5 May 2016; accepted 6 May 2016 Available online 26 May 2016

KEYWORDS

Non-muscle invasive bladder cancer; Narrow band imaging; Diagnosis; Treatment **Abstract** Narrow band imaging (NBI) is a newly developed technology aiming to provide additional endoscopic information for patients with bladder cancer. This review focuses on the diagnostic accuracy and treatment outcome using NBI cystoscopy for the treatment of nonmuscle invasive bladder cancer. Current results showed improved sensitivity of NBI cystoscopy compared to conventional white light cystoscopy, although lower specificity and increased false-positive results were reported using NBI cystoscopy. The treatment outcome using NBI technology in transurethral resection of bladder tumor had a positive impact while decreased number of residual tumors and tumor recurrence at follow-up were reported. In the future, the application of NBI technology might refine the treatment and follow-up protocol in patients with non-muscle invasive bladder cancer. However, this large scale prospective studies are required to confirm the real cost-effectiveness of this new technology.

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1. Introduction

Bladder cancer is the second most common genitourinary cancer and the fifth most common cancer in the United States with an estimated 74,690 new cases in 2014, while the median age at diagnosis was 73 years old [1]. The incidence of bladder cancer is 4 times higher in men than in women. Approximately 80% of bladder cancer was initially

diagnosed to be non-muscle invasive bladder cancer [2]. The standard care for non-muscle invasive bladder cancer (pTa, pT1, carcinoma *in situ*) is endoscopic evaluation and complete tumor resection [2]. However, the high recurrence rate and possibility for stage and grade progression in non-muscle invasive bladder cancer warrant a life-long surveillance. Surveillance includes screening for urine cytology and endoscopic examination on a regular basis [3]. Since the follow-up of non-muscle invasive bladder cancer depends mainly on accurate endoscopic evaluation, urologists are looking forward to have an ideal cystoscopy for the surveillance of non-muscle invasive bladder cancer. The ideal endoscopic image should be highly sensitive for cancer detection, clear identification between benign

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ajur.2016.05.001

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Peer review under responsibility of Second Military Medical University

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and malignant lesions and can identify stage and grade characteristically. Traditionally, white light cystoscopy is the cornerstone for evaluation of the lower urinary tract for more than a century and serves as the most cost-effective method to diagnose and detect the recurrence of bladder cancer [2]. However, it is difficult to detect small bladder cancer, such as small papillary tumors or carcinoma in situ using white light cystoscopy, which might be related to high recurrence rate after endoscopic resection (approximately 50%-90%) [4,5]. It is reported that up to half of patients with high grade pTa or pT1 disease might be under staged at first transurethral resection of bladder tumor [6], requiring a second look transurethral resection to evaluate the resected area during previous operation and trying to resect all suspected lesions to allow more accurate diagnosis and treatment protocol selection [7]. In order to facilitate the limitation of white light cystoscopy, some novel imaging techniques are developed to improve the detection of bladder cancer, such as narrow band imaging (NBI), photodynamic diagnosis and Storz Professional Imaging Enhancement System [8]. NBI is an optic enhancement technique which filters the white light into two different bandwidths, including blue (415 nm) and green (540 nm) spectrum. In the NBI mode, the light is strongly absorbed by hemoglobin and only penetrates the tissue superficially, which increases the identification of small capillaries and superficial tissue structures [9-11]. Since bladder tumors are vascular abundant structures, the tumors could appear in brown or green color against a white background under NBI scenario [12]. NBI technique has become a hot topic in recent years [13–17]. The aim of this review is to describe the outcome of diagnosis and treatment using NBI technology for the management of non-muscle invasive bladder cancer.

2. Diagnosis of bladder cancer

Traditionally, white light cystoscopy is the gold standard for the diagnosis of bladder cancer. However, the limitation of white light cystoscopy to detect small bladder tumors and carcinoma in situ resulted in the continuous investigation of novel imaging techniques in the past decade [8,12]. In 2008, the first published study suggested that improved detection rate of recurrent bladder cancer in NBI cystoscopy [12]. A total of 29 patients with recurrent non-muscle invasive bladder cancer were enrolled in this study. An additional 41% detection rate was found in NBI cystoscopy as compared to conventional white light cystoscopy. The authors concluded that NBI cystoscopy is highly valuable in the detection of both new and recurrent non-muscle invasive bladder cancer and a further investigation is warranted in more patients. In the same year, Herr and Donat [18] reported the outcome of NBI technology for the diagnosis of non-muscle invasive bladder cancer. A total of 427 patients were enrolled into this study while 103 patients had tumor recurrence. The overall recurrence rate was 24.1%. The detection rate of recurrent bladder tumor was 87.4% in white light cystoscopy and 100% in NBI cystoscopy. The additional detection rate was 12.6% found only in NBI cystoscopy. The average number of recurrent tumors detected by white light cystoscopy was 2.3 while 3.4 were

detected by NBI cystoscopy. In 2010, Tatsugami et al. [14] reported a prospective controlled study evaluating the efficacy of NBI cystoscopy for the detection of non-muscle invasive bladder cancer. A total of 104 patients were enrolled into this study. A total of 313 biopsies were taken for pathological examination. The incidence of malignancy identified only by NBI cystoscopy was 55.7%. In 26.9% of patients, bladder tumors were only identified by NBI cystoscopy. The authors concluded that NBI cystoscopy is a simple and effective method for identification of nonmuscle invasive bladder tumors. In 2012, Zheng et al. [19] reported the clinical effective of NBI cystoscopy compared to white light cystoscopy in patients with bladder cancer. A total of 1022 patients were enrolled in this metaanalysis. The pooled sensitivity and specificity of NBI cystoscopy was 0.94 and 0.85 compared to 0.85 and 0.87 for white light cystoscopy, respectively. The pooled sensitivity and specificity for the diagnosis of carcinoma in situ was 0.93 and 0.77 for NBI cystoscopy. The odds ratio was 4.55 of NBI cystoscopy compared to white light cystoscopy. The authors concluded that NBI cystoscopy can provide higher diagnostic precision of non-muscle invasive bladder cancer than white light cystoscopy. In 2013, Li et al. [20] reported a systemic review and meta-analysis on the diagnostic rate using NBI technology in the diagnosis of non-muscle invasive bladder cancer. A total of seven studies including 1040 patients were reviewed while 601 patients with 1476 tumors were enrolled in this meta-analysis. The overall recurrence rate was 58.8%. An additional 17% of patients and 24% of tumors were detected using NBI cystoscopy. An additional 28% of carcinoma in situ was detected using NBI cystoscopy. The false-positive rate of cystoscopic biopsy revealed comparable results using either white light cystoscopy or NBI cystoscopy. The authors concluded that NBI cystoscopy might serve as an alternative diagnostic technique for non-muscle invasive bladder cancer. In 2015, Ye et al. [21] reported a prospective randomized and multicenter study evaluating the role of NBI and white light cystoscopy in detecting non-muscle invasive bladder cancer. A total of 384 patients were enrolled into this study and the incidence of non-muscle invasive bladder cancer was 20.3%. The sensitivity of NBI cystoscopy was 97.7% and 66.7% of white light cystoscopy. The authors concluded that NBI cystoscopy has a high sensitivity to detect and superior detection rate for the diagnosis of non-muscle invasive bladder cancer than white light cystoscopy. Although NBI cystoscopy has a higher detection rate for non-muscle invasive bladder cancer, it is also reported that the false positive findings are common following intravesical instillation of chemotherapeutic agents or other inflammatory condition, with the rates ranging from 32% to 36% [18,22]. In 2010, Herr [22] reported the preliminary results using NBI cystoscopy to evaluate the response following bacillie Calmette-Guerin therapy. A total of 61 patients were evaluated in this study while the overall recurrence rate was 36% (22/61). NBI cystoscopy could correctly detect tumors in 21 patients and only one patient with tumors had negative findings under NBI cystoscopy. The author concluded that NBI cystoscopy could provide better results in patients who had suspected residual tumors following bacillie Calmette–Guerin therapy. In 2016, Song et al. [23] reported the results of NBI cystoscopy early after

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