

# 16° CONGRESSO NAZIONALE AME

## Joint Meeting with AACE Italian Chapter

### Endogenous Hypercortisolism (Cushing from A to Z)



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ITALIAN CHAPTER

## Adrenal surgery: to whom, when, how

Roma, Ergife Palace Hotel  
9-12 Novembre 2017

**Prof. C.P. Lombardi**  
Chief Endocrine Surgery  
C.I.C. – Policlinico "A. Gemelli"

Istituto di Semeiotica Chirurgica  
Chairman: Prof. R. Bellantone  
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore  
Rome





## Patients with hypercortisolism due to

**ACTH-independent  
cortisol hypersecretion**  
(ADRENAL CUSHING'S SYNDROME)

**OUVERT  
CUSHING'S  
SYNDROME**

**SUBCLINIC  
CUSHING'S  
SYNDROME**

**ACTH-dependent  
cortisol hypersecretion**

**CUSHING  
DISEASE**

**ECTOPIC  
ACTH  
SECRETION**



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# to Whom?

## Towards a universally accepted definition of subclinical Cushing's syndrome – subclinical autonomous hypercortisolism<sup>2</sup>

Warrick J. Inder

Department of Diabetes and Endocrinology, Princess Alexandra Hospital and School of Medicine, the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

2016

The concept of subclinical cortisol excess and importantly its relevance remains a controversial issue in Endocrinology.<sup>1,2</sup> Pre-clinical Cushing's syndrome,<sup>3</sup> subclinical Cushing's syndrome or subclinical hypercortisolism,<sup>2</sup> recently rebadged in the European Society of Endocrinology Guidelines as 'autonomous cortisol secretion',<sup>4</sup> is an example where a universally agreed upon definition (and name) has proven to be elusive. It has even been

Several studies have identified that subclinical Cushing's syndrome is associated with increased morbidity and mortality.<sup>8-12</sup> Such patients have a higher rate of metabolic complications such as obesity, type 2 diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular events,<sup>8,10</sup> as well as osteoporosis and vertebral fractures.<sup>13</sup> Con-

tion is.<sup>9</sup> Where patients who have undergone unilateral adrenalectomy have been compared to conservatively managed patients, surgery reduces the rates of diabetes and hypertension and is associated with a reduction in body weight.<sup>14,15</sup> However,

### Systematic review of surgical treatment of subclinical Cushing's syndrome

M. Fassina<sup>1</sup>, M. Cines<sup>1</sup>, M. Scarp<sup>1</sup>, G. Yoff<sup>1</sup>, M. Borsari<sup>2</sup> and D. Nini<sup>3</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Endocrinology, Santa Margherita Hospital, Genoa, Italy; <sup>2</sup>Endocrinology, University of Turin, Italy; <sup>3</sup>Endocrinology, University of Pisa, Italy  
 Correspondence: M. Fassina, Endocrinology, Santa Margherita Hospital, Department of Endocrinology, Via XX Settembre 15, I-10121, Turin, Italy. Email: m.fassina@unige.it

### THERAPY OF ENDOCRINE DISEASE

### Improvement of cardiovascular risk factors after adrenalectomy in patients with tumors and subclinical Cushing's syndrome: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Irini Escorp<sup>1</sup>, Feroz Akshid<sup>2</sup>, Rachel K. Crowley<sup>3</sup>, Malcolm Goodwin<sup>4</sup>, Denise A. DeBorja<sup>5</sup>, Gaurav Mittal<sup>6</sup>, Massimo Knudsen<sup>7</sup>, Andrija Kralj<sup>8</sup>, William H. Tang<sup>9</sup> & M. Hosen Mard<sup>10</sup>

### Waiting for change: Symptom resolution after adrenalectomy for Cushing's syndrome

Rebecca S. Sigurd, MD,<sup>1\*</sup> Diane N. Emani, MD,<sup>2</sup> Eudora Edrington, MD,<sup>3</sup> Sheila Lindee, BS,<sup>4</sup> J. Blake Tyson, MD,<sup>5</sup> and Qingling Bai, MD,<sup>6</sup> *Endocrine Reviews* 2016; 37(2): 123-131



# to Whom?

- ✓ **Subclinical Cushing's Syndrome (SCS)** is defined as a subtle autonomous cortisol hypersecretion without the typical signs and symptoms of hypercortisolism.
- ✓ **SCS** is reported in **5-48%** of patients with **incidentally discovered adrenal masses** and could be frequently encountered in the clinical practice, due to the increasing diagnosis of adrenal incidentaloma.
- ✓ **Controversies** in **SCS** :



DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (observation Vs surgical treatment)

POSTOPERATIVE GLUCOCORTICOID REPLACEMENT THERAPY

# to Whom?

## DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA

No clinical signs specific to Cushing's syndrome	DST 1 mg >1 µg/dL	+	DHEAS <30 µg/dL	or	ACTH <15 pg/mL	or	UFC 2xULN	or	AVS lateralization		
	DST 1 mg >1.8 µg/dL	+	LDDST >1.8 µg/dL	or	Midnight cortisol >7.5 µg/dL	or	ACTH <5 pg/mL	or	UFC >100 µg/day		
	DST 1 mg (no cut-off)	or	HDDST (no cut-off)	or	Low ACTH	or	High UFC	or	High serum cortisol		
	DST 1 mg >2.5 µg/dL	+	1 HPA axis alteration								
	DST 1 mg >3 µg/dL	+	Low ACTH	or	Low DHEAS	or	No cortisol rhythm	or	Unilateral uptake adrenal scintigraphy		
		or	HDDST >1 µg/dL								
	DST 1 mg >3.5 µg/dL	or	UFC >96 µg/day								
		or	ACTH <10 pg/mL								
	DST 1 mg >4 µg/dL	+	Low ACTH	or	High UFC and/or 17OHC	or	No cortisol rhythm				
		+	ACTH <10 pg/mL	+	UFC >76 µg/day						
DST 1 mg >5 µg/dL	+	ACTH <9 pg/mL	or	UFC >120 µg/day						or	No cortisol rhythm
	+	Impaired response to loperamide test 16 mg									
	or	ACTH <25 pg/mL	or	No cortisol rhythm	or	Unilateral uptake adrenal scintigraphy					
	+	HDDST >3 µg/dL		+	Normalization after adrenalectomy						
DST 3 mg >3 µg/dL	+	HDDST >3 µg/dL		+	UFC post-HDDST ≥ 50% baseline						
DST 4 mg >1.8 µg/dL	+	ACTH <10 pg/mL	or	UFC >100 µg/day		or	Cortisol 24.00/8.00 ratio >50%				





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# to Whom?

## MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

- ✓ Even if subclinical cortisol secretion can determine the metabolic and cardiovascular long-term consequences of Cushing's syndrome (CS), only a minority of patients with SCS will develop an overt CS
- ✓ Endoscopic adrenalectomy may have a beneficial effect on the long term metabolic consequences of subtle cortisol excess, with low morbidity rate



Surgical treatment

Medical treatment and  
observation



## Subclinical Cushing's syndrome: definition and management

M. Terzolo, A. Pia and G. Reimondo

*Internal Medicine I, San Luigi Gonzaga Hospital, University of Turin, Orbassano, Italy*

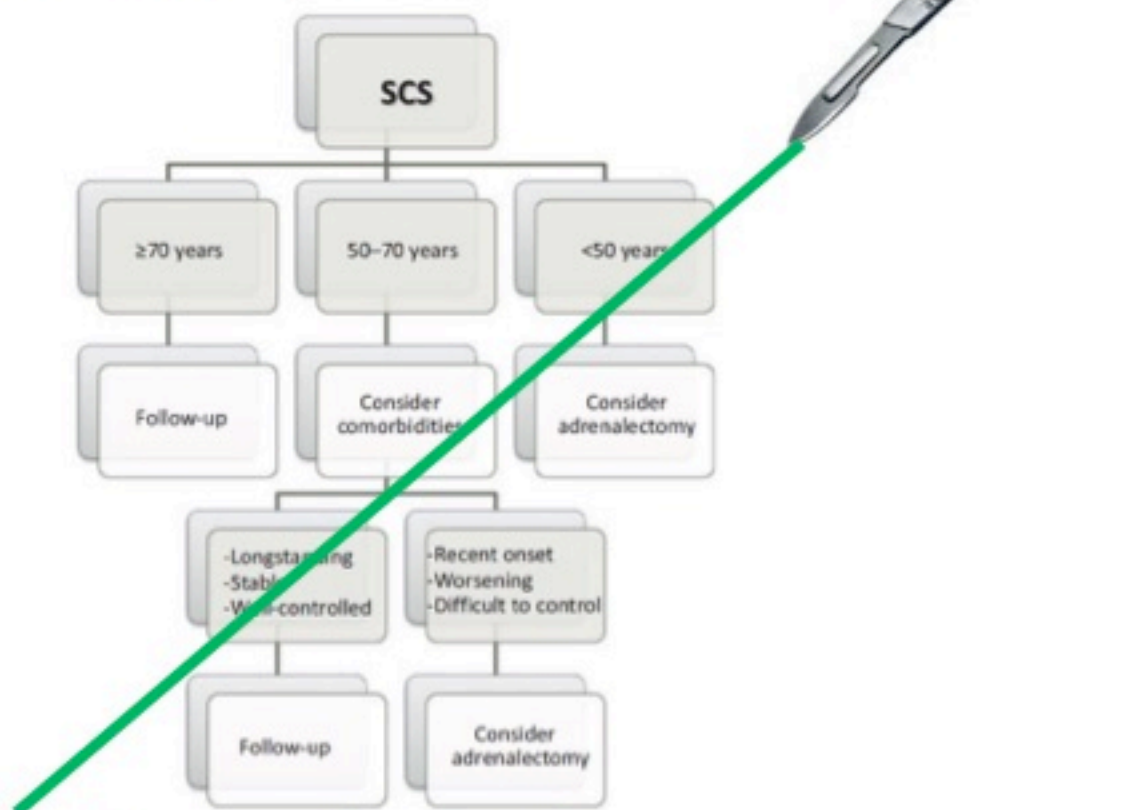


Fig. 2 Proposed management strategy of subclinical Cushing's syndrome.

# Treatment of Cushing's Syndrome: An Endocrine Society Clinical Practice Guideline

Lynnette K. Nieman, Beverly M. K. Biller, James W. Findling, M. Hassan Murad, John Newell-Price, Martin O. Savage, and Antoine Tabarin

# When?



2

1

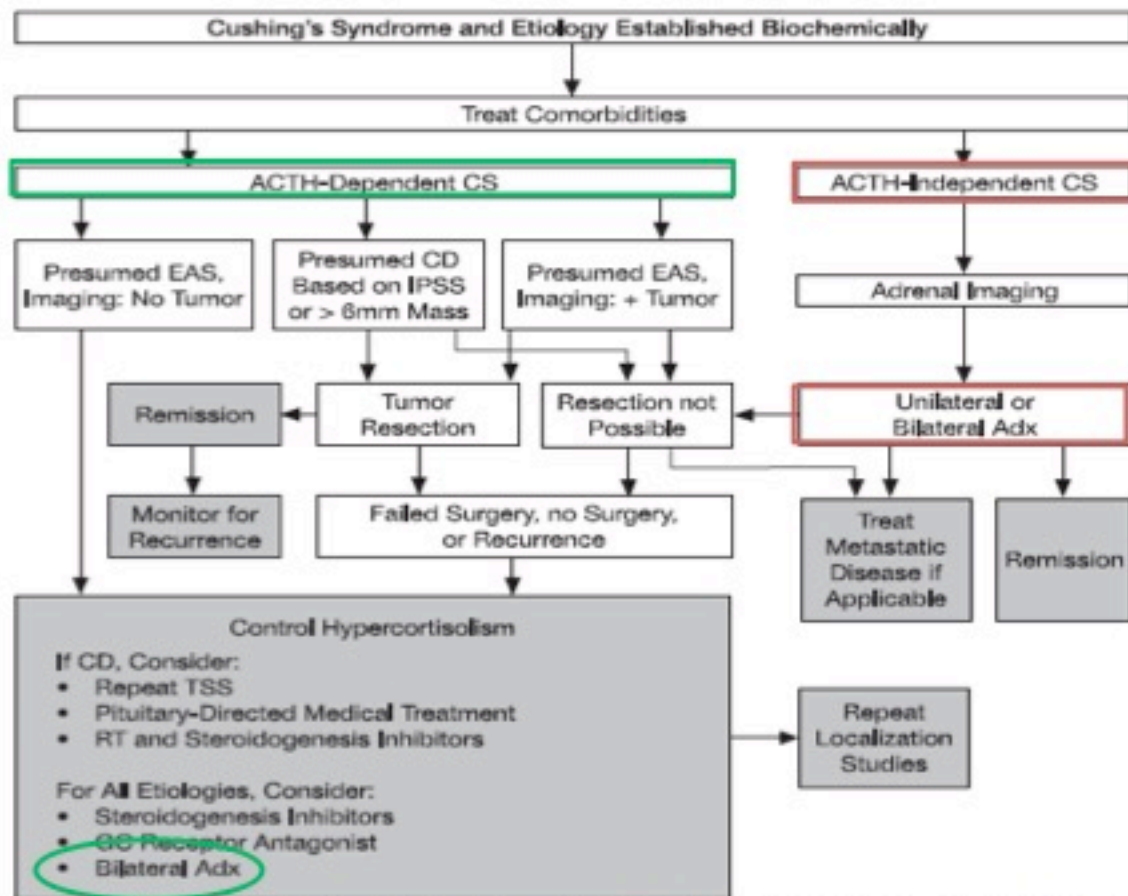


Figure 1. An algorithm for the treatment of CS. Derived from Nieman LK, Biller BM, Findling JW, et al. The diagnosis of Cushing's syndrome: an Endocrine Society Clinical Practice Guideline. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab*. 2008;93:1526–1540. (17)





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# When?

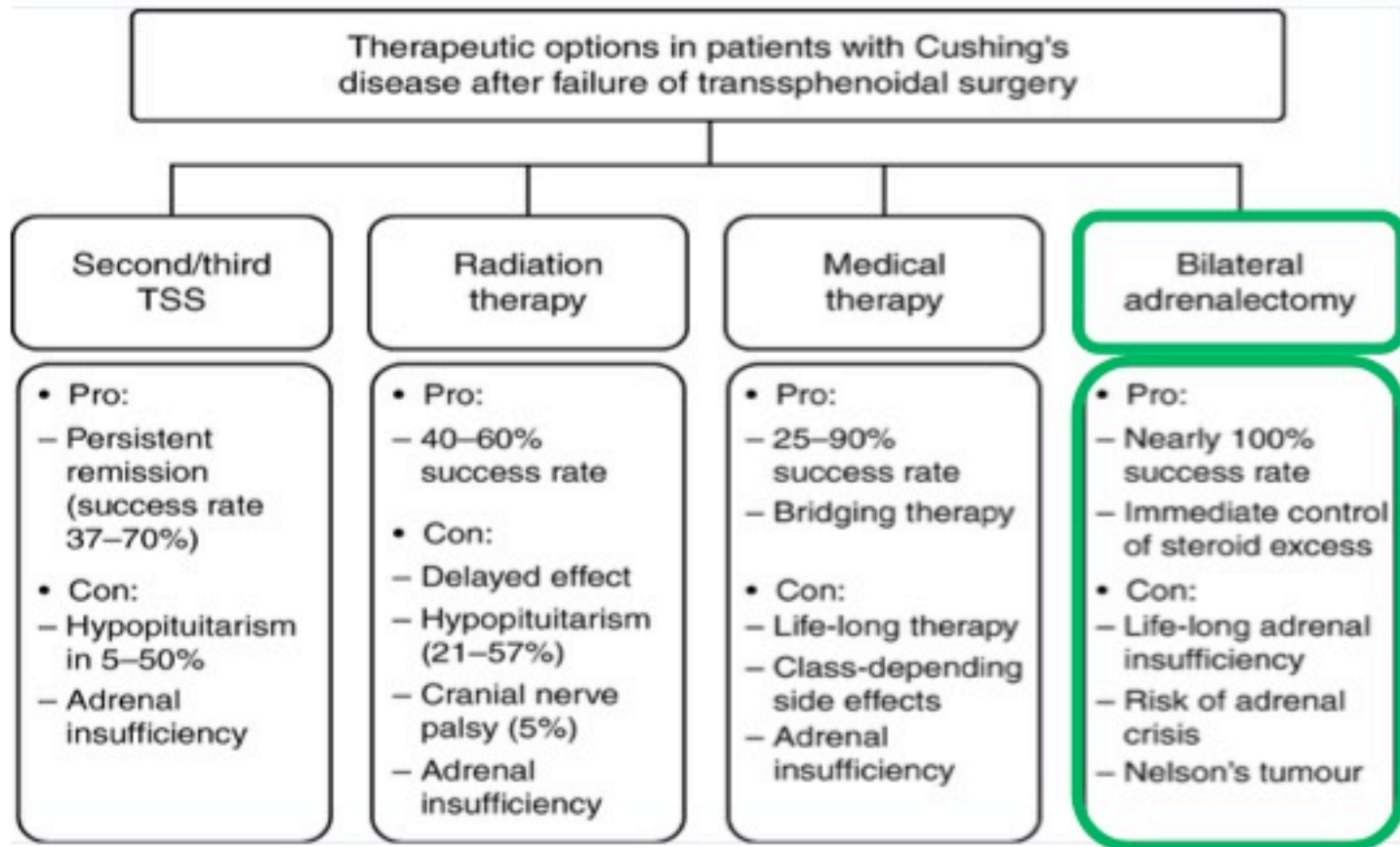


Ultima spiaggia?



# When?

## Therapeutic options in patients with Cushing's disease after failure of transsphenoidal surgery



**Success:**  
**Timing**  
**Related**

A critical reappraisal of bilateral adrenalectomy for ACTH-dependent Cushing's syndrome  
Martin Reincke et al, EJE 2015, 173, M23-M32





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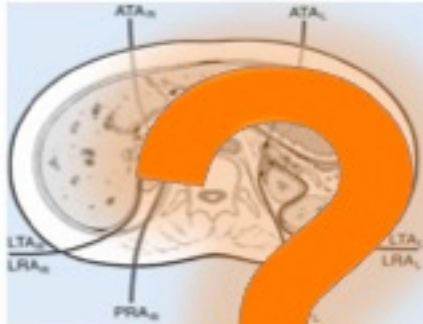
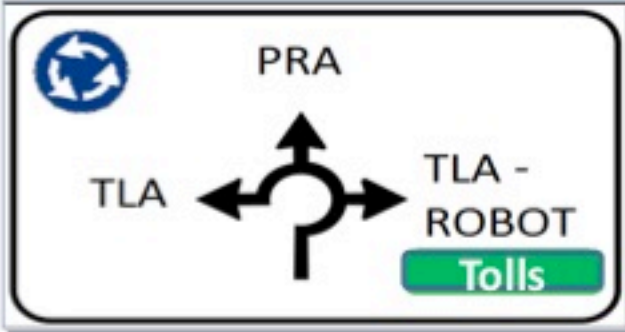
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# How?

## ENDOSCOPIC ADRENALECTOMY: techniques

Similar to conventional surgery, several approaches have been described also for the endoscopic adrenalectomy

Henry JF. Best Practice & Research 2001





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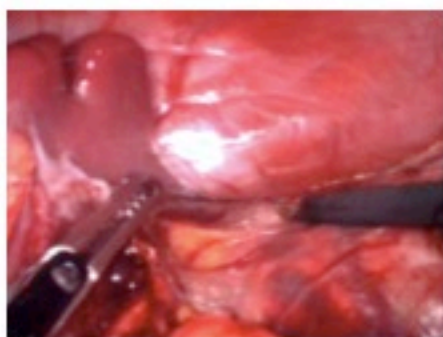
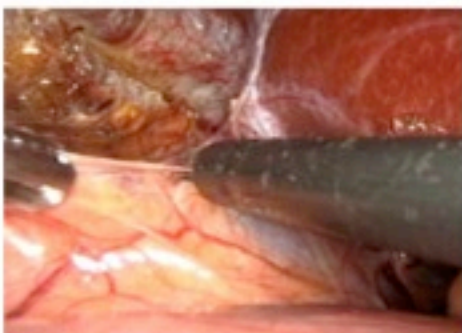
# How?



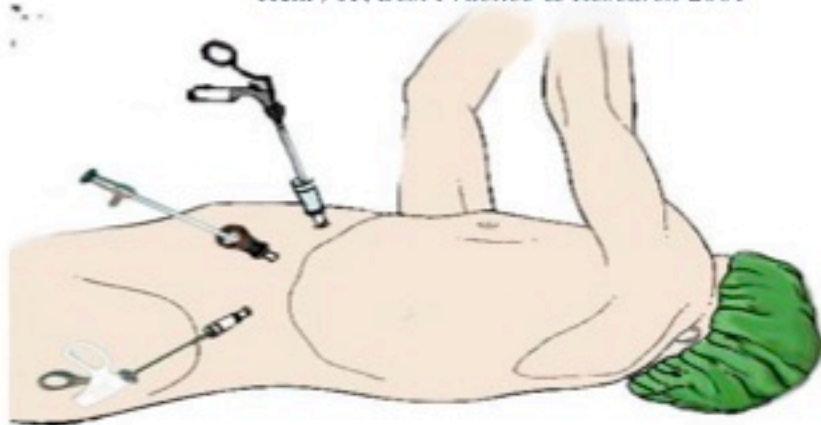
## Transperitoneal Lateral Adrenalectomy

The TL approach, the most widespread, is access to a "conventional operating field" ...

... it allows proper exposure of the adrenal region, facilitated by displacement due to the force of gravity of the structures adjacent to the adrenal gland ...



Henry JF. *Best Practice & Research* 2001



The liver and the spleen-pancreatic block



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# Robot-assisted adrenalectomy



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CATTOLICA  
del Sacro Cuore



U.O.C. Chirurgia Endocrina e Metabolica  
Policlinico "A. Gemelli" - Roma





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# Robot-assisted adrenalectomy



## The Benefits of Robotic Approach:

- vision 3-D,
- best surgeon comfort,
- greater manuality (fine, unnatural movements such as 360 degree instrument rotations that theoretically can improve the peri- and postoperative outcome of surrenectomy).

## Disadvantages:

High Costs (2.3 times higher than TLA)

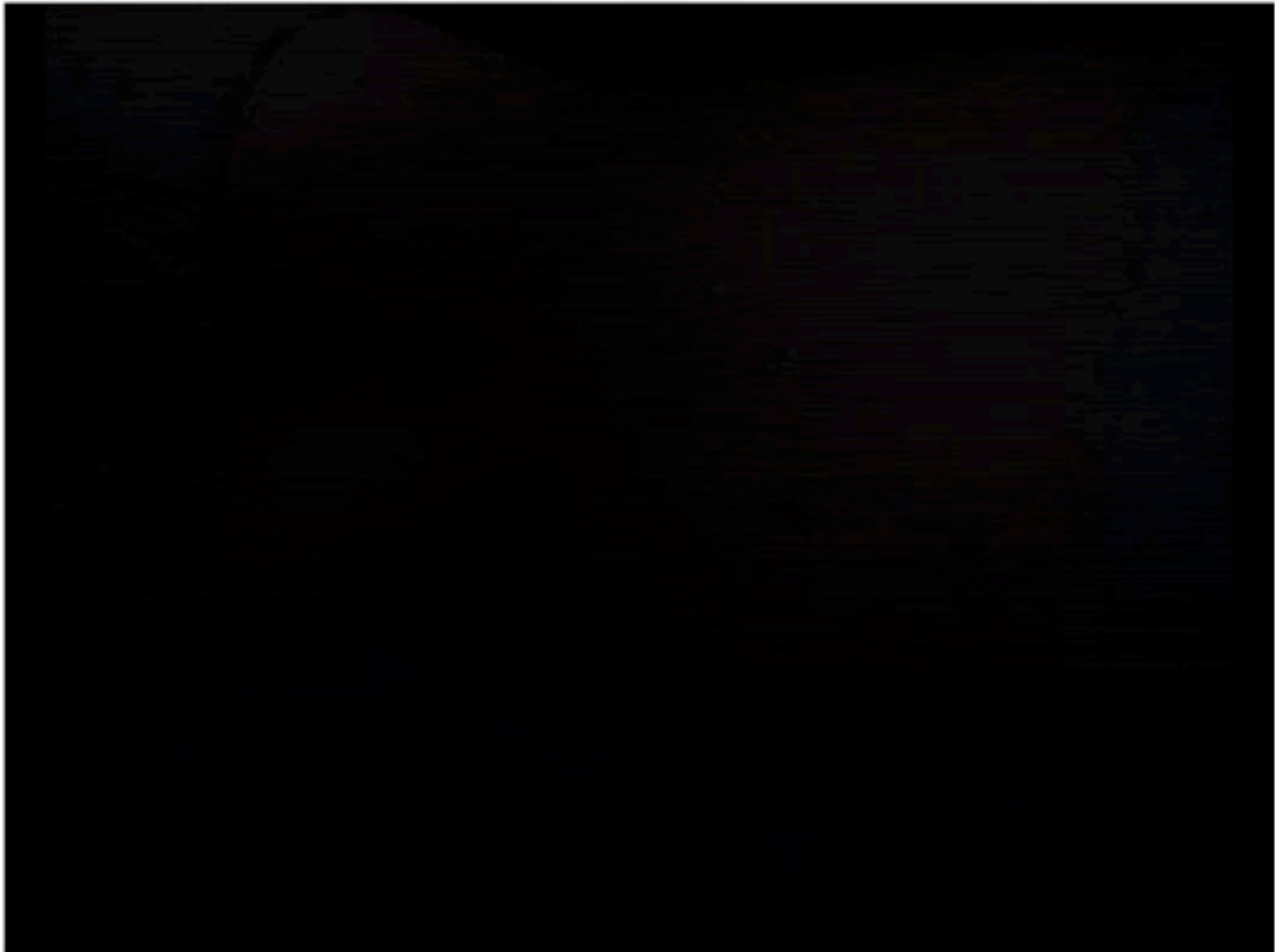


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# Robot-assisted RIGHT adrenalectomy







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# How?

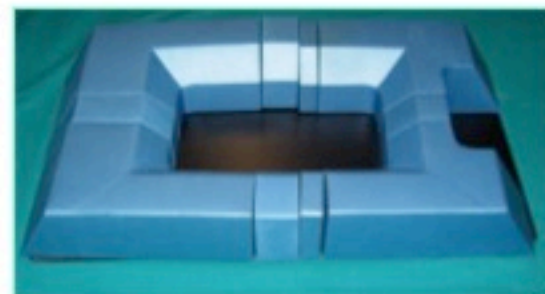
## POSTERIOR RETROPERITONEOSCOPIC ADRENALECTOMY



Page 7, World J Surg 2011



... the Posterior Retroperitoneoscopic Adrenalectomy (PRA) has been adopted by more than **20% of Centers.**



Endoscopic adrenalectomy: Is there an optimal operative approach? Results of a single-center case-control study

Celestino Pio Lombardi, MD,\* Marco Raffalli, MD,\* Carmela De Cres, MD,\* Liliana Solazzi, MD,\* Valter Porcili, MD,\* Maria Teresa Carozzi, MD,\* and Rocco Bellantone, MD,\* Rome, Italy

Walz M. *Surgery* 2006  
Gumbs AA, Gagner M. *Best Practice & Research* 2006



Although PRA has been proposed also for large adrenal tumors...

Original article

## Endoscopic treatment of large primary adrenal tumours

M. K. Walz<sup>1</sup>, S. Petersenn<sup>3</sup>, J. A. Koch<sup>2</sup>, K. Mann<sup>3</sup>, H. P. H. Neumann<sup>5</sup> and K. W. Schmid<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Surgery and Centre of Minimally Invasive Surgery and <sup>2</sup>Department of Radiology, Kliniken Essen-Mitte, and <sup>3</sup>Department of Endocrinology and <sup>4</sup>Institute of Pathology, University of Duisburg-Essen, Essen, and <sup>5</sup>Medical Department IV, University of Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany

Correspondence to: Professor M. K. Walz, Department of Surgery and Centre of Minimally Invasive Surgery, Kliniken Essen-Mitte, Henriciussasse 92, D-45116 Essen, Germany (e-mail: mkwalz@kliniken-essen-mitte.de)

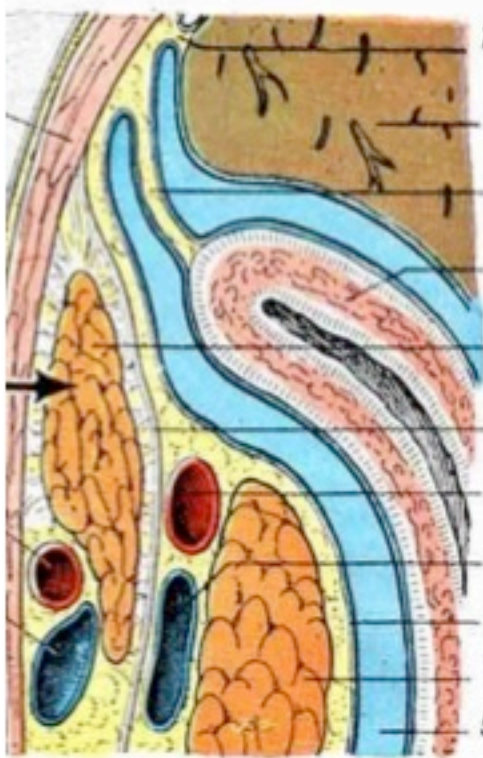
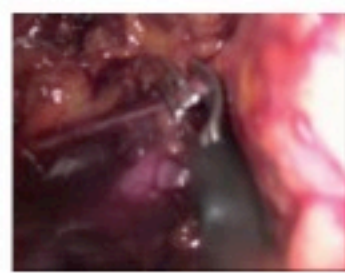


Large tumor size is indicated as the main limitation of PRA, mainly because of the small working space.





# Posterior Retroperitoneoscopic Adrenalectomy



## Advantages:

- Direct access to adrenal gland
- Excellent control of adrenal vein
- **Extraperitoneal approach**
- The best approach in case of previous surgery
- **Bilateral adrenalectomy**

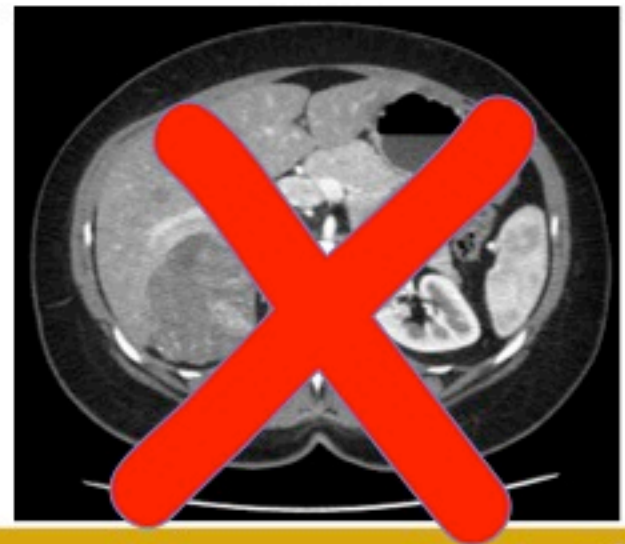
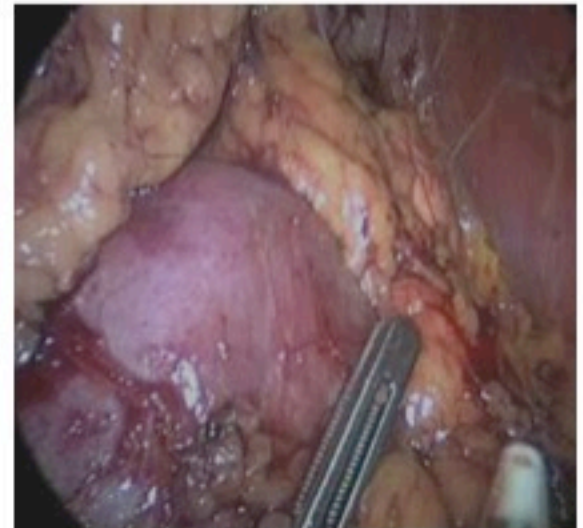
Walz M, Surgery 2006  
Lombardi CP, Surgery 2008  
Perrier ND, Ann Surg 2008  
Lombardi CP, Surgery 2011  
Lee CR, Ann Surg Oncol 2013  
Raffaelli M, World J Surg 2014



## Disadvantages:

*... lack of anatomical  
landmarks !?!*

- Limited exposure
- Contraindicated in case of  
>6-7 cm lesions





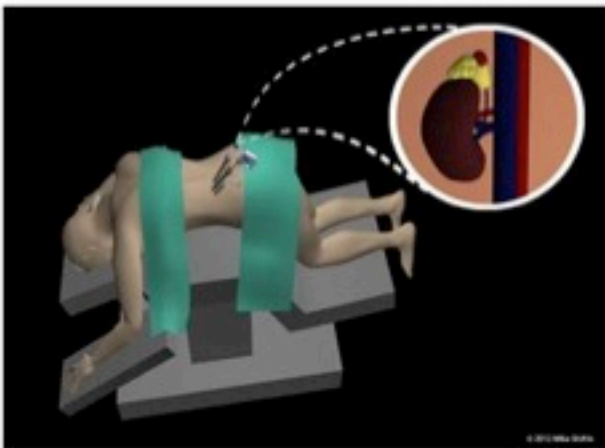
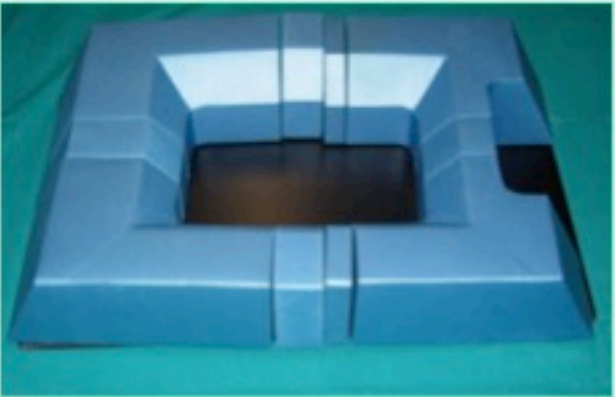
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# Posterior Retroperitoneoscopic Adrenalectomy

The patient is placed in prone position



Walz et al

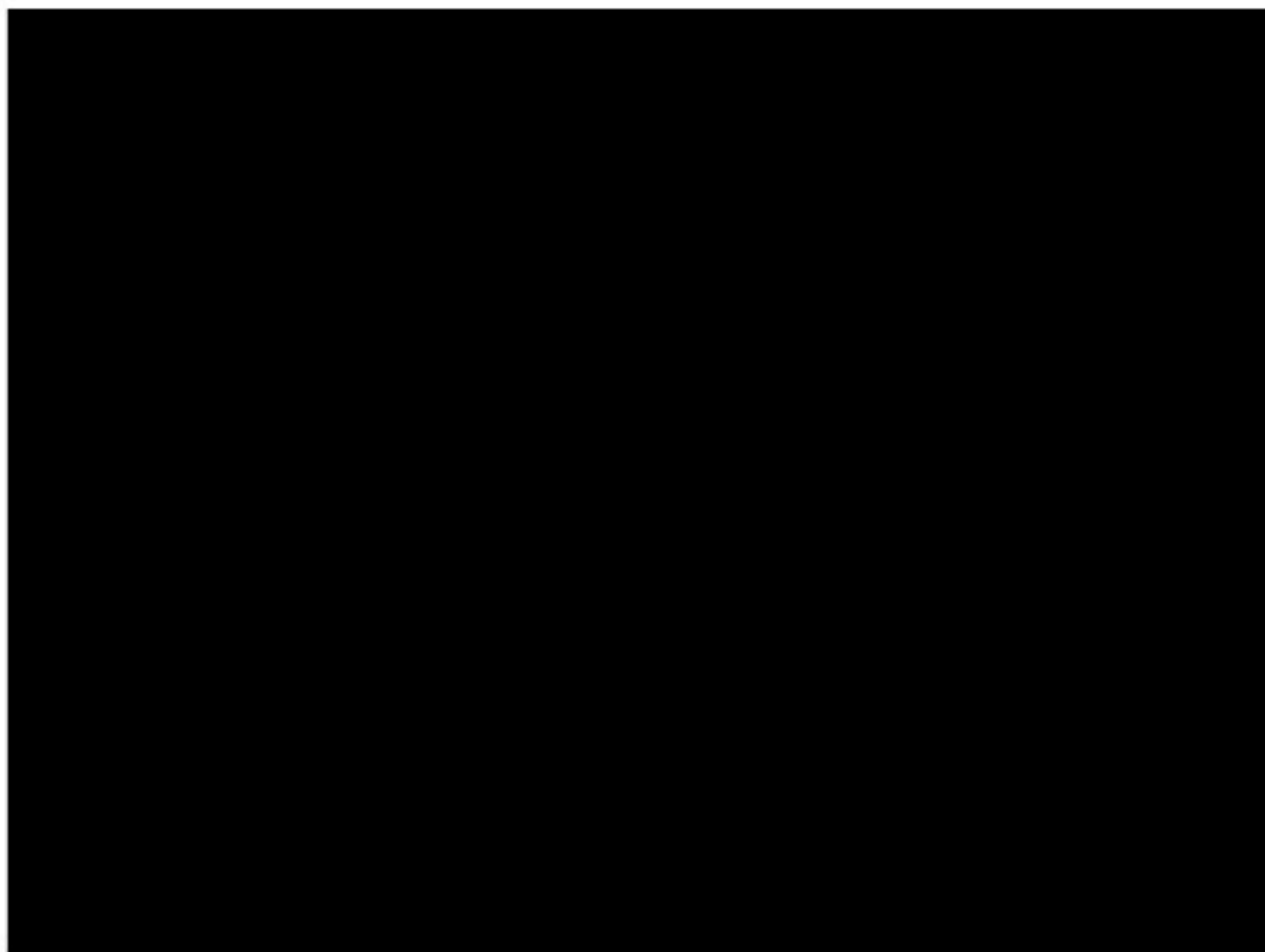
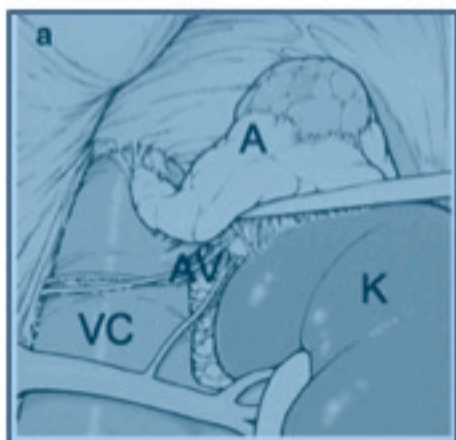


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# Posterior Retroperitoneoscopic RIGHT Adrenalectomy



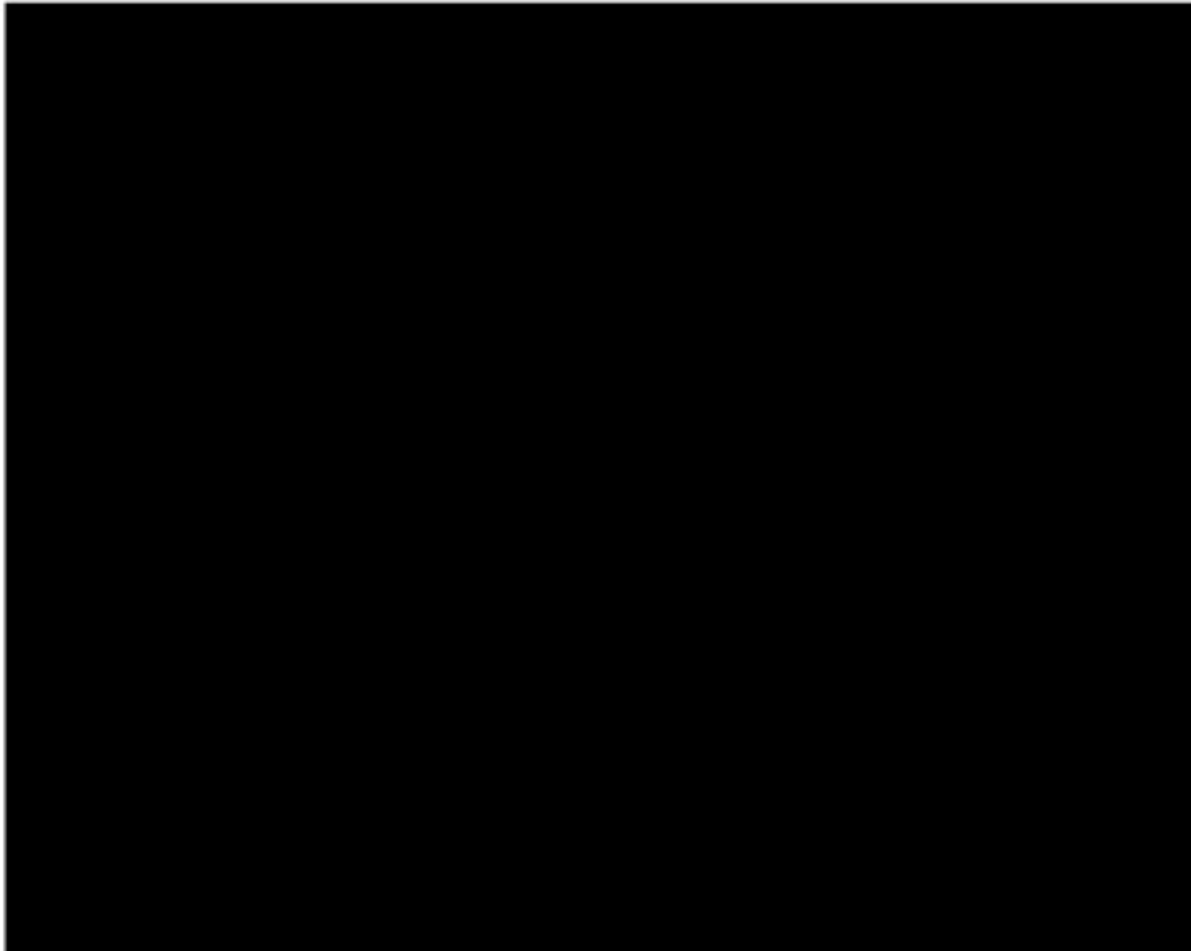
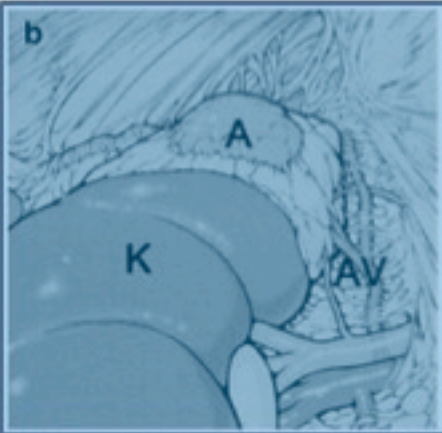


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# Posterior Retroperitoneoscopic LEFT Adrenalectomy





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# Posterior retroperitoneoscopic adrenalectomy “Tricks and Traps”

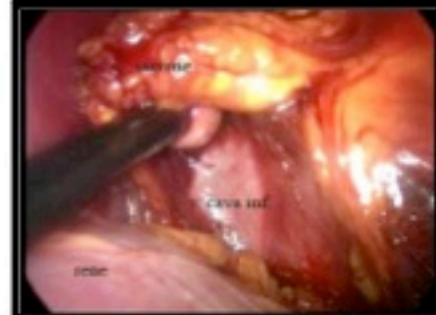
A carbon dioxide  
pneumoretroperitoneum  
is established at 20-25  
mmHg



High pressures facilitate the opening of  
the retroperitoneal space

Better control of small bleeding

- Complete mobilization of the upper renal pole greatly facilitates retroperitoneoscopic dissection of the adrenal gland;
- Careful dissection clearly identifies the main vessels.





# Systematic review and meta-analysis of retroperitoneoscopic versus laparoscopic adrenalectomy

V. A. Constantinides, I. Christakis, P. Touska and F. F. Palaz; *British Journal of Surgery* 2012; 99: 1639–1648

BJS 2012



22 Published Articles

1257  
TLA

Vs

238  
PostRA

471  
LatRA

	No. of studies	No. of patients	Odds ratio or SMD	P	Heterogeneity	
					$\chi^2$	P
<b>Operative parameters</b>						
Duration of operation (min)	7	444	-0.23 (-1.43, 0.98)*	0.711	176.67	< 0.001
Operative blood loss (ml)	4	271	-0.33 (-1.40, 0.74)*	0.552	41.35	< 0.001
Intraoperative bleeding	4	301	0.83 (0.17, 4.14)	0.825	3.11	0.373
<b>Postoperative parameters</b>						
Time to oral intake (days)	2	66	0.07 (-0.42, 0.56)*	0.789	1.38	0.242
Time to full ambulation (days)	2	66	0.07 (-0.41, 0.56)*	0.761	1.35	0.251
Length of hospital stay (days)	5	269	-1.45 (-2.76, -0.14)*	0.034	85.11	< 0.001
Overall complications	3	138	1.58 (0.40, 6.23)	0.510	1.49	0.478
Pneumothorax/haemothorax	2	62	0.60 (0.07, 5.22)	0.643	0.30	0.589
Neuralgia	3	272	4.88 (0.80, 29.76)	0.091	0.27	0.875
Death	2	196	0.27 (0.03, 2.48)	0.226	0.30	0.587

There were no differences in duration of operation, blood loss, time to ambulation and oral intake, or complication rates between techniques

**“PostRA/LatRA overall has equivalent outcomes to TLA...**

**...but may be associated with a shorter hospital stay”**



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## Simultaneous bilateral posterior retroperitoneoscopic adrenalectomy



*...The posterior approach exposes  
both the adrenal glands at the  
same time*



## Bilateral Adrenalectomy



# Bilateral Adrenalectomy

Author (year)	Diagnosis (n)	Approach	Operative time (min)	Conversion	Blood loss (ml)	Hospital stay (days)	Postoperative morbidity & mortality (n)
Fernandez-Cruz et al. [3]	CS (4) Pheo (1)	Transperitoneal	285	None	475	6	None
Chapuis et al. [15]	CS (10)	Transperitoneal	295	None	NA	6	Subphrenic abscess (1)
Acosta et al. [2]	CS (17)	Transperitoneal	360	1	NA	6	Hypoglycemia (1) Back pain (1) Death from gastrointestinal bleed (1)
Shichman et al. [16]	CS (5)	Transperitoneal	403	None	190	3.8	None
Bonjer et al. [17]	CS (13) Pheo (3)	Retroperitoneal	214	1	121	5	Hematoma (1), UTI (1), Death from sepsis (1)
Lezoche et al. [18]	CS (5) Pheo (1)	Transperitoneal	220	1	NA	NA	Death from colon injury (1)
Vella et al. [19]	CS (19)	Transperitoneal	252	3	NA	2.7	DVT (1)
Hasan et al. [20]	CS (3) Pheo (3) Metastases (1)	Transperitoneal	308	None	138	5.1	None
Hawn et al. [21]	CS (18)	Transperitoneal	296	None	218	3	Hemorrhage (1) Pancreatitis (1)
Parpiglia et al. [11]	CS (13)	Transperitoneal	234	2	340	5.7	Wound infection (1)
Jager et al. [22]	CS (16) Pheo (2)	Transperitoneal (16) Retroperitoneal (2)	289	None	125	7	Death from pulmonary embolus (1)
Mikhail et al. [23]	CS (5)	Transperitoneal	295	None	200	7	DVT (2) Wound infection (1)
Current series 2007	CS (25) Pheo (5)	Transperitoneal	290	None	81	3.5	UTI (2) Addisonian crisis (1) Pneumonia (1) Wound infection (1)
<b>Total</b>			<b>Mean operative time 288</b>	4.7%	Mean 236	Mean 5.5	<b>13% Complications</b> <b>2.4% Mortality</b>



CS, Cushing's syndrome; Pheo, pheochromocytoma; NA, not available; UTI, urinary tract infection; DVT, deep vein thrombosis

Takata MC, Kebebew E, Clark OH, Duh QY. *Surg Endosc* 2008

# Bilateral Adrenalectomy

“Even if TLA has been successfully performed also in the case of **bilateral adrenalectomy**, it is associated with **significantly longer operative time** when compared with *conventional technique*, because of the need to repositioning the patients”.

*Gagner M, Best Practice & Research 2006*

	TLA	Open
		
	250'	200'
Porpiglia et al. (2004)	234'	181'



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# Bilateral Adrenalectomy

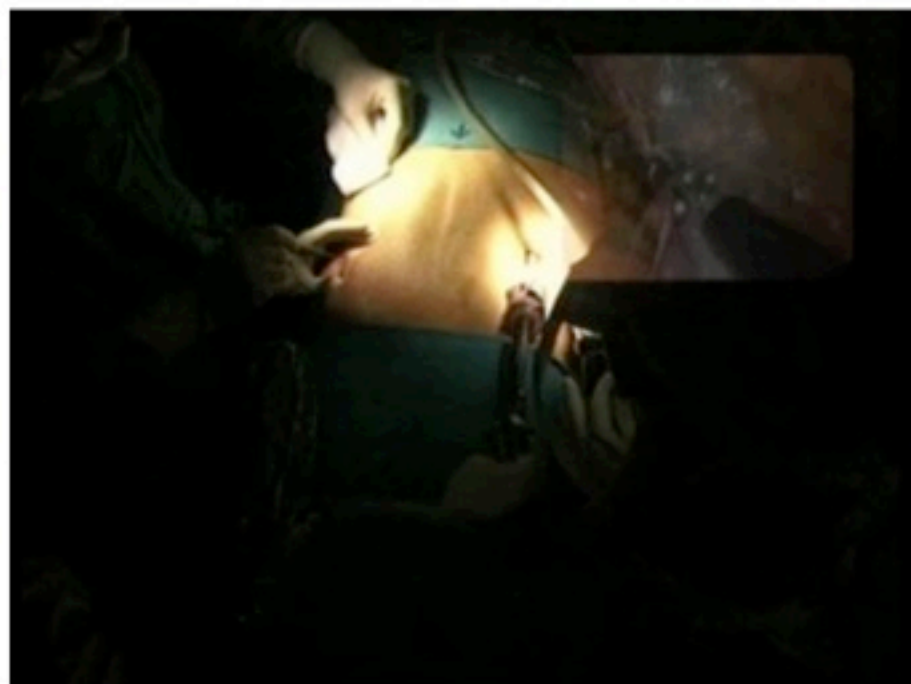
**ACTH-dependent Cushing syndrome: The potential benefits of simultaneous bilateral posterior retroperitoneoscopic adrenalectomy.**

Lombardi CP, Raffaelli M, De Crea C, Bellantone R, Fusco A, Bianchi A, Pontecorvi A, De Marinis

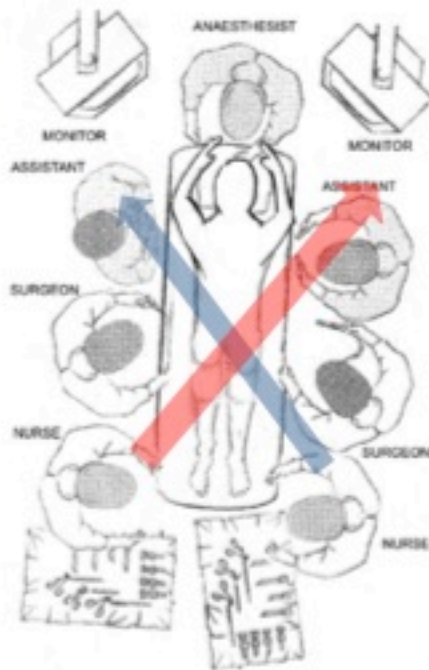
**Synchronous Bilateral Adrenalectomy for Cushing's Syndrome: Laparoscopic Versus Posterior Retroperitoneoscopic Versus Robotic Approach**

Raffaelli M, Brunaud L, De Crea C, Hoche G, Oragano L, Bresler L, Bellantone R, Lombardi CP

2007 → 2014



LEFT ADRENALECTOMY Equipe



RIGHT ADRENALECTOMY Equipe

# Synchronous Bilateral Adrenalectomy for Cushing's Syndrome: Laparoscopic Versus Posterior Retroperitoneoscopic Versus Robotic Approach

Marco Raffaelli · Laurent Brunaud · Carmela De Crea · Guillaume Hoche · Luigi Oragano · Laurent Bresler · Rocco Bellantone · Celestino P. Lombardi

Operative time was significantly shorter in the PR-BiLA group, because it eliminates the need to repositioning the patient. The number of drains and the length of hospital stay were reduced after RA-BiLA, but this was likely related to different management protocols in different settings.

Variables	RA-BiLA	PR-BiLA	TL-BiLA	P value
Patients	13	11	5	
Age (years) <sup>a</sup>	42.8 ± 13.6 (18–63)	41.2 ± 13.1 (18–62)	46.8 ± 19.9 (15–67)	0.777
Gender (male/female)	2/11	2/9	2/3	
Preoperative diagnosis				0.591
Cushing's disease	7 (43.7 %) <sup>b</sup>	8 (72.7 %) <sup>f</sup>	2 (40.0 %) <sup>d</sup>	
Ectopic ACTH secretion	4 (25 %) <sup>b</sup>	3 (27.3 %) <sup>f</sup>	2 (40.0 %) <sup>d</sup>	
ACTH-independent Cushing	2 (12.5 %) <sup>b</sup>	0 (0.0 %) <sup>c</sup>	1 (20.0 %) <sup>d</sup>	
Previous abdominal surgery	3 (25.0 %) <sup>b</sup>	3 (27.2 %) <sup>f</sup>	2 (40.0 %) <sup>d</sup>	0.772
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) <sup>a</sup>	30.2 ± 6.5 (18.5–46.0)	27.9 ± 4.6 (22.5–36.7)	31.9 ± 4.8 (25.4–36.6)	0.379
ASA score				
I/II/III/IV/V	0/10/3/0/0	0/8/3/0/0	0/4/1/0/0	0.945
<u>Operative time (min)<sup>a</sup></u>	221.5 ± 42.2 (155–285)	<u>157.4 ± 54.6 (85–240)</u>	256.0 ± 43.4 (210–300)	<u>&lt;0.001</u>
Conversion to open approach	0	0 <sup>e</sup>	0	NS
Blood transfusion	0	1 (9.1 %) <sup>c</sup>	1 (20.0 %) <sup>d</sup>	0.304
<u>Drain yes/no</u>	<u>4/9</u>	11/0	5/0	<u>&lt;0.001</u>
Intraoperative complications	3 (18.7 %) <sup>b</sup>	1 (9.1 %) <sup>c</sup>	0	0.378
Postoperative complications	2 (12.5 %) <sup>b</sup>	3 (27.2 %) <sup>f</sup>	0	0.397
Clavien–Dindo classification	IIIa, IV	I, II, II		
Time to first flatus (days) <sup>a</sup>	1.8 ± 0.6 (1–3)	1.6 ± 0.5 (1–2)	2.3 ± 1.2 (1–3)	0.195
<u>Hospital stay (days)<sup>a</sup></u>	<u>4.4 ± 1.7 (2–8)<sup>f</sup></u>	10.8 ± 3.7 (5–18) <sup>f</sup>	12.0 ± 5.7 (8–22) <sup>f</sup>	<u>&lt;0.001</u> <sup>f</sup>
Follow-up (months) <sup>a</sup>	18.8 ± 16.4 (2–48)	33.5 ± 22.4 (8–72)	46.8 ± 43.6 (2–98)	0.094
Disease-related death	0 (0 %) <sup>b</sup>	0 (0 %) <sup>f</sup>	0 (0 %) <sup>d</sup>	NS
Death for unrelated causes	0 (0 %) <sup>b</sup>	1 (9.1 %) <sup>c</sup>	1 (20.0 %) <sup>d</sup>	0.304



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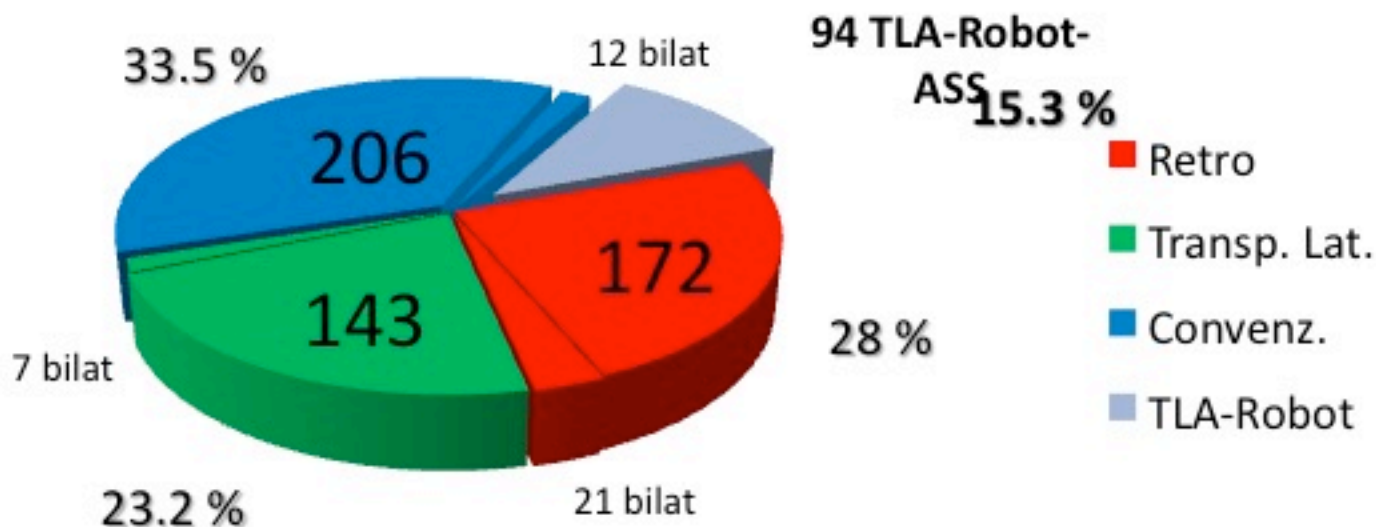


ITALIAN CHAPTER

# 615 ADRENALECTOMIES

U.O.C. Chirurgia Generale ed Endocrina  
Policlinico "A. Gemelli" – Roma

July 1997- October 2017





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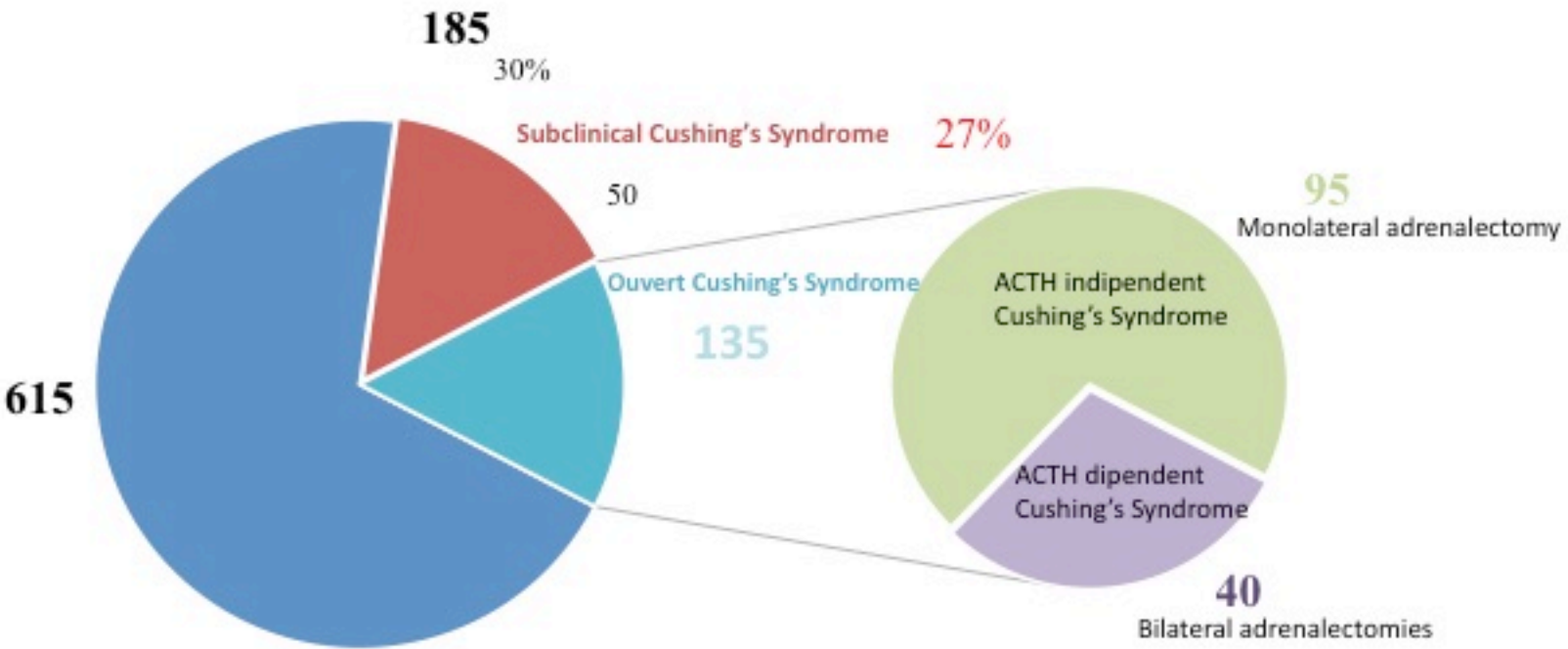


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■ All adrenalectomy ■ SCS ■ Cushing disease ■ CS





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*Thanks for your attention!*