
CONTROVERSIAL INDICATIONS FOR LAPAROSCOPIC ADRENALECTOMY

J. F. HENRY

Department of Endocrine Surgery
University-Hospital La Timone
Marseilles - France

8th Postgraduate Course in Endocrine Surgery
September 21-24, 2006
Heraklion, Crete-Greece

CONTROVERSIAL INDICATIONS FOR LAPAROSCOPIC ADRENALECTOMY

Large tumors:

- Pheochromocytomas
- Cortical tumors

Metastases

Background

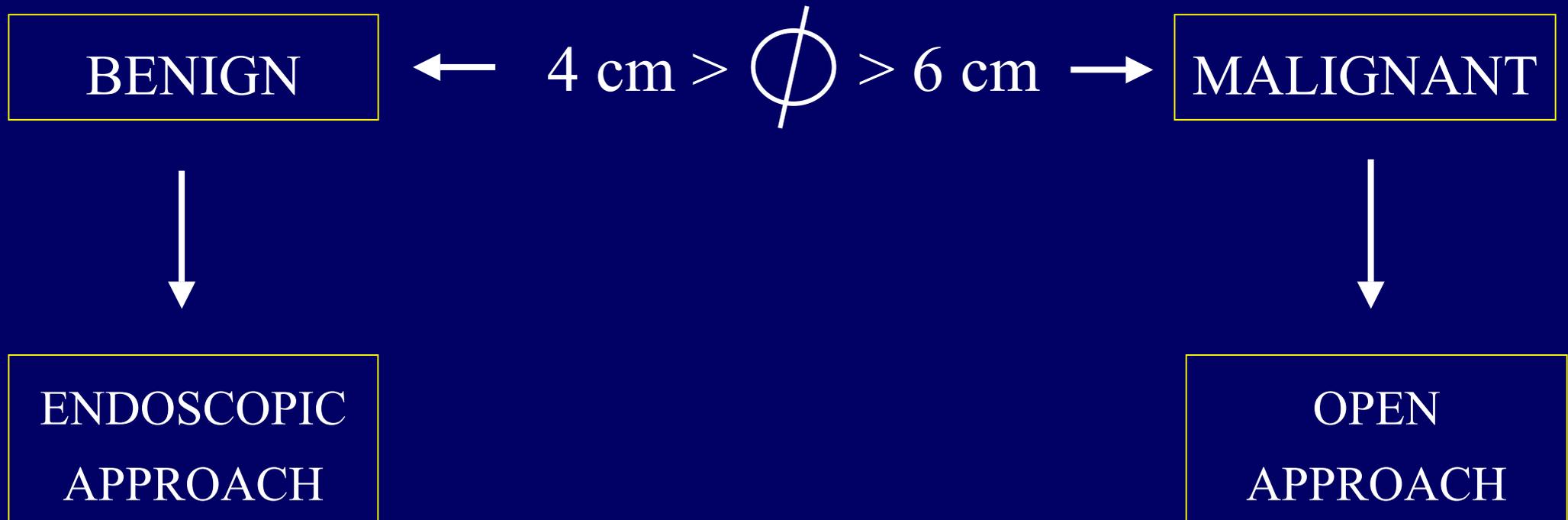
- Laparoscopic adrenalectomy:
 - Less pain / blood loss¹
 - Less morbidity & shorter hospital stay²
 - More rapid return to work³
- Procedure of choice:
 - Benign
 - Small secreting adrenal tumours
 - ? Large adrenal tumours

¹Imai T. *et al Am J Surg* 1999; **178**: 50-3.

²Dudley NE, Harrison BJ. *Br J Surg* 1999; **86**: 656-60

³Thompson GB *et al. Surgery* 1997; **122**: 1132-6

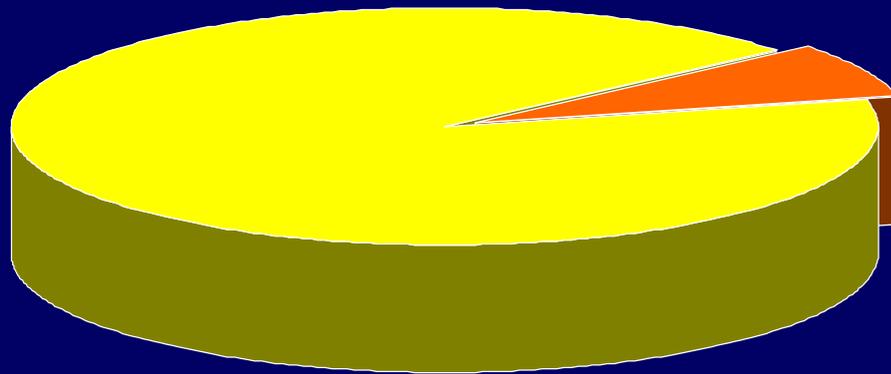
PRIMARY ADRENAL TUMORS



LAPAROSCOPIC ADRENALECTOMY

TUMORS > 6 cm

Nb :39*
(7.9 %)

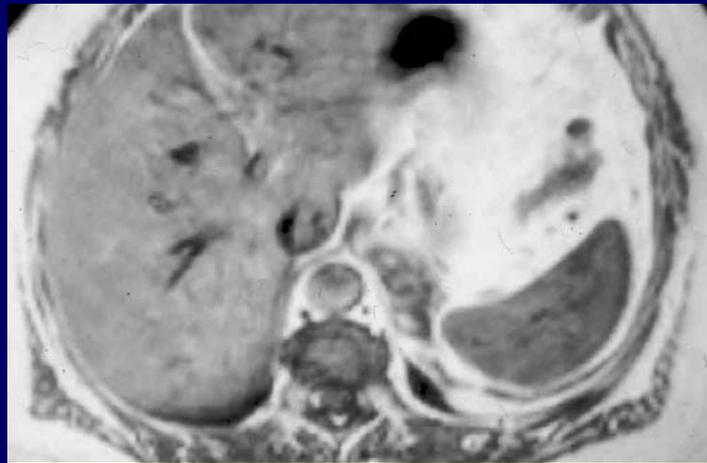


Pheochromocytoma	16
Cortical tumors	23

* Tumors > 6 cm , solid .

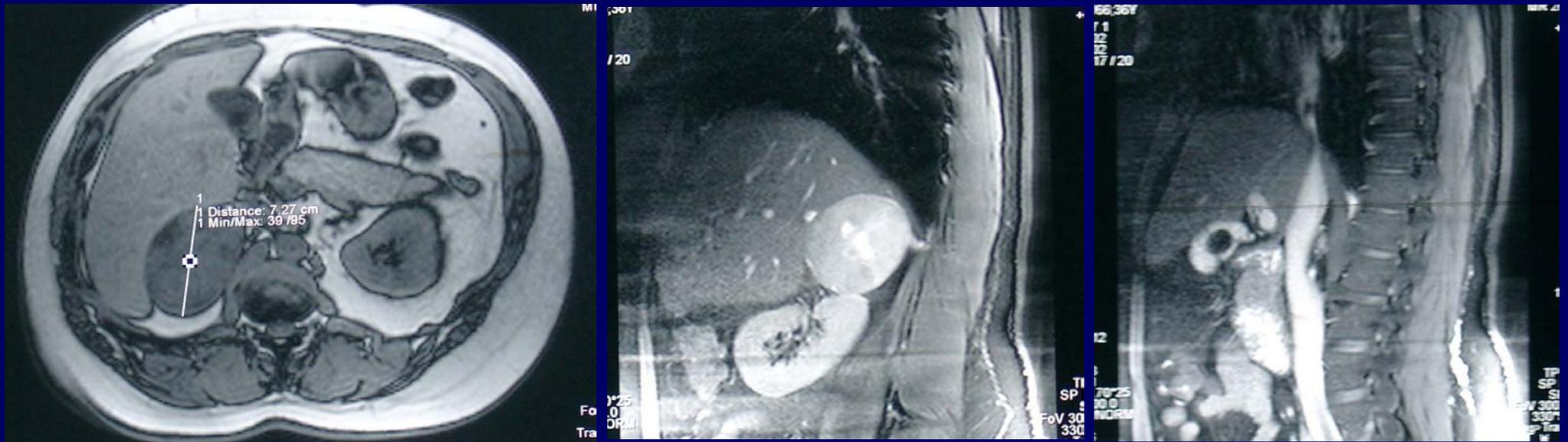
ADRENAL CARCINOMAS

Preoperative demonstration of invasive extra-adrenal carcinoma remains an absolute contra-indication for laparoscopic adrenalectomy.



LAPAROSCOPIC ADRENALECTOMY

Should laparoscopic approach be proposed for large and/or potentially malignant adrenal tumours ?



TRANSPERITONEAL OR
RETROPERITONEAL
ENDOSCOPIC APPROACH ?

TRANSPERITONEAL OR RETROPERITONEAL ENDOSCOPIC APPROACH ?

Transperitoneal approach

Lateral position

3-4 trocars - subcostal area

Dissection : cautery hook, harmonic scapel, ligasure
clips (adrenal vein)

Extraction in plastic bag

Drainage : optional

Vein thrombosis prophylaxis

LAPAROSCOPIC ADRENALECTOMY FOR LARGE PHEOCHROMOCYTOMAS

Is endoscopic adrenalectomy a safe procedure ?

- with adequate preoperative blockers
- CO₂ pneumoperitoneum is well tolerated
- laparoscopic versus open : no significant differences
in hemodynamic changes and catecholamine secretion

Fernandez-Cruz – World J. Surg. 20, 762-768, 1996

Inabnet – World J. Surg. 24, 574-578, 2000

L.A. FOR LARGE PHEO > 60mm

(16 cases)

• Mean size	76mm
• Mortality	0
• Conversion	0
• Hemodynamic complications	1
• Capsular disruption	2
• Malignancy	0
• Recurrence	0

Dpt of Endocrine Surgery

Hospital La Timone - Marseilles

L.A. FOR LARGE CORTICAL TUMORS

Predicting malignancy

- Clinical
 - Local symptoms
 - Virilization
- Biochemical
 - Mixed secretion
 - DHEA-S
- Radiological
 - **Size**
 - CT - low attenuation (?benign)
 - MRI - rapid gadolinium enhancement + washout (benign?)
 - NP59
 - PET

L.A. FOR LARGE CORTICAL TUMORS

- Adrenalectomies 565
- L.A. 489
- Solid cortical > 6cm 23
 - 11 non secreting tumors
 - 12 secreting tumors

L.A. FOR LARGE CORTICAL TUMORS

Results: Demographics/ Histology

- Mean age 49.9 (22-77) years
- Mean tumour diameter 71mm (60-100)
- Histology
 - 8 cortical adenomas
 - 5 adrenocortical carcinomas
 - 10 indeterminate histology

L.A. FOR LARGE CORTICAL TUMORS

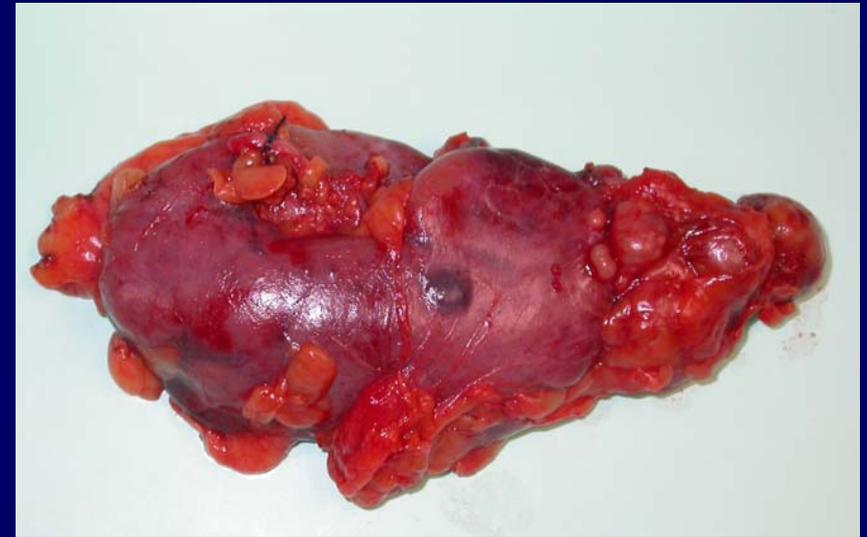
Results: Deaths

- 2 DNRD
 - 77 female
 - 65mm non secreting tumour “cortical adenoma”
 - 71 female
 - 65mm non secreting tumour “cortical adenoma”
- 2 DRD: 2° liver mets *without local recurrence*:
 - 44 female 10/12
 - 80mm Cushings - “indeterminate histology”
 - 77 female 19/12
 - 70mm Non secreting ACC

L.A. FOR LARGE CORTICAL TUMORS

Results

- 1 local recurrence:
 - 43 woman, Recurrence at 54 months
 - 60mm
 - Cushings,
 - “Indeterminate histology”
- 1 local recurrence associated with distant metastases
 - 62 man, Recurrence at 12 months
 - 75mm
 - Aldosteronoma
 - Malignant



Conclusions

- Laparoscopic adrenalectomy produces acceptable medium term results in adrenal cortex tumours >6cm where there is no pre or intraoperative evidence of malignancy.
- Laparoscopy should be considered an assessment tool as well as therapeutic in the management of large adrenal tumours.

Adrenal Cortex Tumour

Evidence of local invasion

No evidence of local invasion

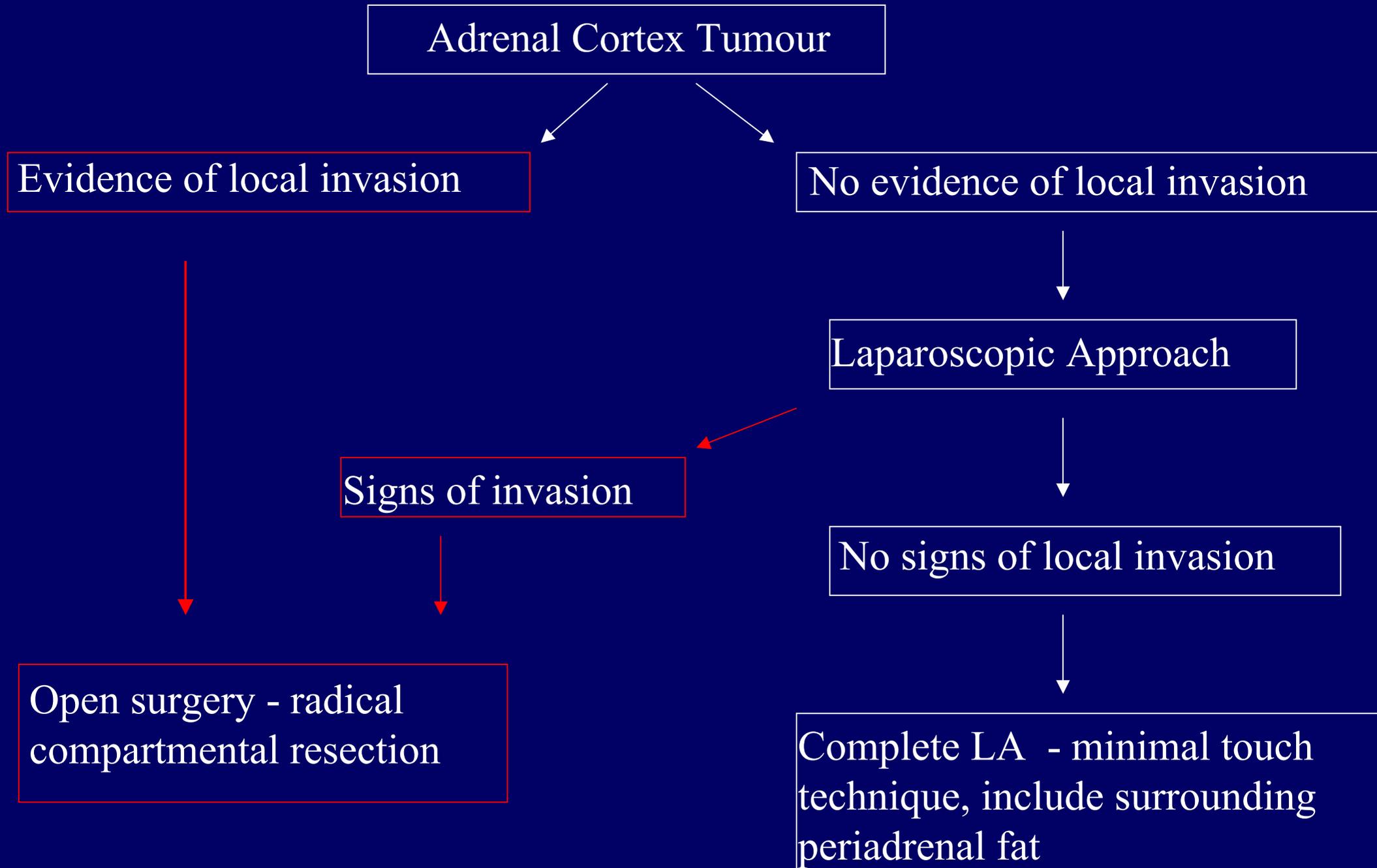
Laparoscopic Approach

Signs of invasion

No signs of local invasion

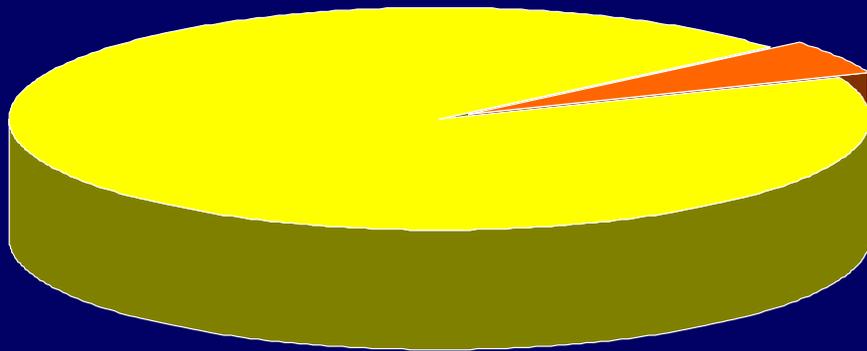
Open surgery - radical compartmental resection

Complete LA - minimal touch technique, include surrounding periadrenal fat



LAPAROSCOPIC ADRENALECTOMY FOR METASTASES

**Nb :25
(5 %)**



Lung	14
Melanoma	4
Mesothelioma	1
Rhabdomyosarcoma	1
Colon ADK	1
Renal cell	4

LA FOR METASTASES

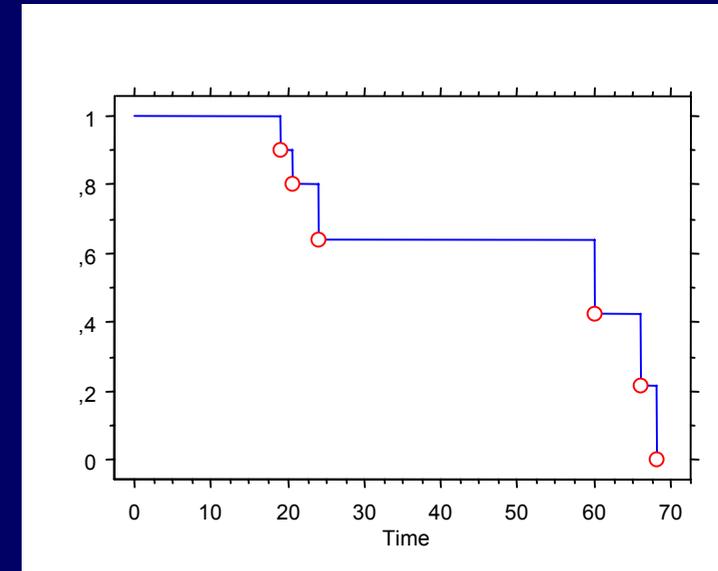
- Synchronous AM (n=15), Metachronous AM (n=9)
 - 13/16 patients presented other metastatic sites in their history (controlled at the time of LA)
-

LA FOR METASTASES

- All patients : lateral, transperitoneal approach
 - Conversion 6/25 (24%) (<5% conversion rate)
 - Macroscopic complete resection : 75%
 - Microscopic complete resection : 56%
 - Minor Complications : 4/25
 - Hospitalisation : 5 days (3-18)
-

Follow up (16 patients)

- Observed FU 25 months (1-68 months)
- 5 years O. Survival : **42 % (24.4 months)**
(KM)
- 8 Patients alive with a mean FU of 35 months
 - 3 without evidence of disease at 60, 24, 19 months after surgery
- **We did not identify any prognostic factors** such as primary tumour, meta/synchronous



Conclusions (1)

- Appropriate evaluation close before surgery :
 - To avoid conversion : loss of the advantages of laparoscopy compared to open approach, and conversion often means incomplete resection
 - To avoid incomplete resection (AM incomplete resection or other uncontrolled metastatic sites)
- ⇒ Complete and appropriate evaluation using at least **thin cut CT scan and PET scan** performed close to the time of surgery
-

Conclusions (2)

- When AM matches the « good criteria » for resection (confined to the adrenal gland...), subsequently the AM may be resected by LA in most cases.
 - AM which match those criteria are rare...
 - AM that would require open adrenalectomy with a curative intent are probably rarer...
-

Conclusions (3)

- Some factors are usually related to good prognosis...
 - In our series, a majority of patients presented synchronous AM or others metastatic sites in their history. Despite these characteristics, survival compared favourably...
 - When "classical" favourable factors are absent, patient should not be excluded de facto from a surgical approach
 - A patient specific multidisciplinary approach is required.
-

Conclusions

- If all these conditions are respected, patients may benefit from both surgical resection with the comfort of laparoscopy.

ENDOSCOPIC ADRENALECTOMY

- Invasive adrenal carcinoma is an absolute contraindication for laparoscopic adrenalectomy
- Whether the laparoscopic approach should be considered for large-volume (>5-6 cm) and potentially malignant adrenal tumors remains debatable
- Endoscopic adrenalectomy may be considered for solitary adrenal metastases in patients in whom a primary carcinoma has been completely resected