INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVE

Retroperitoneal lymph node dissection (RPLND) is a well-established treatment for post chemotherapy residual mass in non-seminoma germ cell tumor (NGCT).

Open RPLND is gold standard, but due to high postoperative morbidity and poor cosmetic laparoscopic retroperitoneal lymph node dissection (L-RPLND) has been described by Rukstalis and Chodak.

The proposed advantages of L-RPLND are good cosmesis, shorter hospital stay, less post-operative pain and reduced complication rate.

Robot assisted laparoscopic retroperitoneal lymph node dissection(RA-RPLND) has been described to overcome difficulties associated with laparoscopic technique, like difficulty with dissection in retro-aortic and retro-caval area.

We describe our experience of robot assisted retroperitoneal lymph node dissection (RA-RPLND) for post chemotherapy residual mass in terms of surgical, pathological and oncological outcomes.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

A total of 18 patients underwent RA - RPLND between September 2011 to September 2017 at our institute.

Study was started on January 2015 so data were collected retrospectively and prospectively regarding demography of patients, tumor characteristics, surgical, pathological and oncological outcomes.

Short term and medium term clinical outcomes were also recorded.

DISCUSSION

Davol et al. reported first RA-RPLND in 2006, and subsequently many investigators published small case series for primary RPLND.

There are only few studies of RA-RPLND for post chemotherapy residual mass.

Our published case series of 13 patients is probably largest series till now.

With our learning curve, our incidence of chylous ascites has decreased. In last 8 patients we did not observe chylous ascites in the post operative period.

There is a definite advantage of supine approach, like it provides exposure to both sides of retroperitoneum simultaneously, and decreases operative time.

CONCLUSION

RA - RPLND is safe and feasible for post chemotherapy residual mass with acceptable complication rate. Though larger studies are required to establish its therapeutic utility.

REFERENCES