Salvage low-dose-rate brachytherapy for prostate cancer local recurrence after radical prostatectomy: our first three patients.

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Abstract

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY: To present our initial experience with brachytherapy (BT) as a primary salvage procedure for the treatment of prostate cancer (PCa) local recurrence following radical retropubic prostatectomy (RRP).

METHODS: From December 2009 to May 2010, three patients underwent salvage BT due to local recurrences of high risk PCa after extrafascial RRP without additional adjuvant therapies. Local recurrence was confirmed by prostate biopsy and the relapse was well defined by endorectal ultrasonography and magnetic resonance imaging. Metastatic screening was negative. The patients were followed-up according to the American Brachytherapy Society guidelines.

RESULTS: The median dose delivered to 90% of the local relapse (D90) was 115 Gy. The three patients reached a prostate specific antigen (PSA) nadir value within the first year that remained stable at a mean follow-up of 32 months. As regards morbidity, moderate de novo urgency was reported by only one patient.

CONCLUSIONS: We think that our data confirms the feasibility and safety of salvage BT as a possible alternative option to external beam radiotherapy (EBRT) for the treatment of locally recurrent PCa in selected patients when performed by experienced centers. However, larger series of patients with longer follow-ups are needed to define the oncologic role of this procedure.

PMID: 24474541 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]