

CHAPTER 21

Final considerations

The update in the treatment of colon cancer includes multiple aspects that have been developed in recent years and that have resulted in an improvement in OS, DFS and quality of life, considering the variability between different stages and risk groups.

Sometimes, treatment includes not only colon resection, but also resection of organs affected by direct invasion, locoregional involvement or metastasis. Therefore, it is essential to create a work team that includes specialists related to diagnosis and staging (imaging specialist, pathologist), in addition to those involved in treatment (colorectal or general surgeon, liver surgeon, thoracic surgeon, oncologist, radiotherapist) to define in a personalized way the best therapeutic option for each patient.

In our opinion, the current approach to the treatment of colon cancer depends on the stage and clinical presentation, with or without complications. Special situations that arise with advanced tumors, multiple tumors, and those that occur during pregnancy should also be considered.

Significant advances in recent years include genetic-based classification, the determination of stable or unstable

tumors, and a large number of tools (e.g. liquid biopsy, Immunoscore) whose implementation is the subject of multiple studies and whose clinical applicability seems imminent. This advance was fundamental for the inclusion of immunotherapy as part of the treatment. In addition, technical advances have been made such as complete mesocolic excision and oncological strategies such as neoadjuvant therapy as a new therapeutic approach, with outstanding results.

In the last chapter prior to these conclusions, data from recent years on the diagnosis and treatment of colon cancer in the main healthcare centres in the Northwest of Argentina have been collected, with very interesting results for understanding the local problems and their differences with the rest of the country. In addition, the opinion of almost 600 colleagues from all over Latin America completes the data included in this publication.

This report aims to present the largest amount of evidence and information available, both from the healthcare and research point of view, which is highly relevant today for the clinical-surgical implementation of colon cancer treatment.