

[2007][49] Type III radical hysterectomy for obese women with cervical carcinoma: Robotic versus open

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Objectives: The purpose of this study was to evaluate the feasibility of performing a type III robotic radical hysterectomy in obese women as compared with case-matched controls who had open type III radical hysterectomies.

Methods: Data were collected from 31 consecutive women who underwent type III robotic radical hysterectomy from 2005 to 2006 and compared with data for 48 women who underwent open type III radical hysterectomy from 2000 to 2005. Obese patients (body mass index (BMI) >30) from each group were compared. Data regarding patient demographics, operative variables, pathology results, complications, and length of hospital stay were compared using the Student t test.

Results: Thirteen of thirty-one (42%) robotic patients and 11 of 48 (23%) open patients had a BMI of \geq 30. There was no significant difference in age (44.9 vs 41.9), average BMI (33.9 vs 33.3), and operative time (240 min vs 251 min) between the robotic and open patients, respectively. Fifteen percent of the robotic patients met criteria for morbid obesity (BMI > 40) compared with none of the open patients. There were a significantly higher lymph node count (mean 38.4 vs 22.3, P = 0.0047), lower mean estimated blood loss (119 ml vs 562 ml, P < 0.0001), and shorter hospital stay (1.0 day vs 3.5 days, P < 0.0001) in favor of the robotically treated patients. No complications were associated with the robotic procedures, whereas there were four complications in the open cases.

Conclusions: Robotic radical hysterectomy is a feasible surgical approach for the obese patient with cervical cancer, with no increase in operative time and superior lymph node yield. It has the advantages of shorter hospital stay and lower estimated blood loss, which are important for reducing morbidity in patients who are already at higher risk for perioperative complications due to their obesity. Robotic assistance may expand the surgical options for obese women with cervical cancer.

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