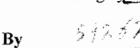
INVESTIGATIONS AND TREATMENT OF COLORECTAL LIVER METASTASES

ESSAY

Submitted Master De

Submitted for partial fulfillment of Master Degree in General Surgery



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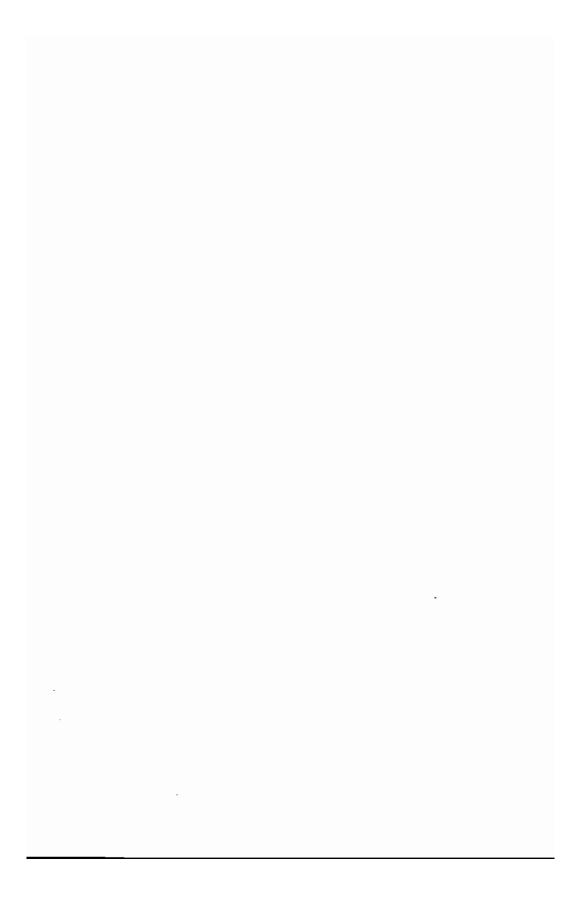
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CONTENTS

1- Introduction
2- Anatomy of the liver
- Development of the liver
- Morphological anatomy
- Functional anatomy
- Vascular anatomy
- The biliary tract
- Anatomy of the biliary exposure
3- Colorectal cancer
* Epidemiology
A- Incidence
B- Etiology
* Pathology
- Macroscopic features
- Microscopic features
- Spread of colorectal carcinoma
- Staging of colorectal carcinoma
* Diagnosis
- Evaluation of symptomatic patient
- Examinations
- Investigations
* Treatment of colorectal cancer
- Treatment of resectable colon cancer
- Adjuvant therapy for colon cancer
- Treatment of resectable rectal cancer
- Adjuvant therapy for rectal cancer
4- Investigations for colorectal liver metastases
A) Laboratory tests
B) Imaging studies
1- Abdominal ultrasonography
2- Intraoperative ultrasonography
3- Computed Tomography
4- Magnetic resonance imaging
5- Scintigraphy & Angiography
5- Treatment of the colorectal liver metastases
1- Liver resection for metastatic colorectal cancer
* Natural history

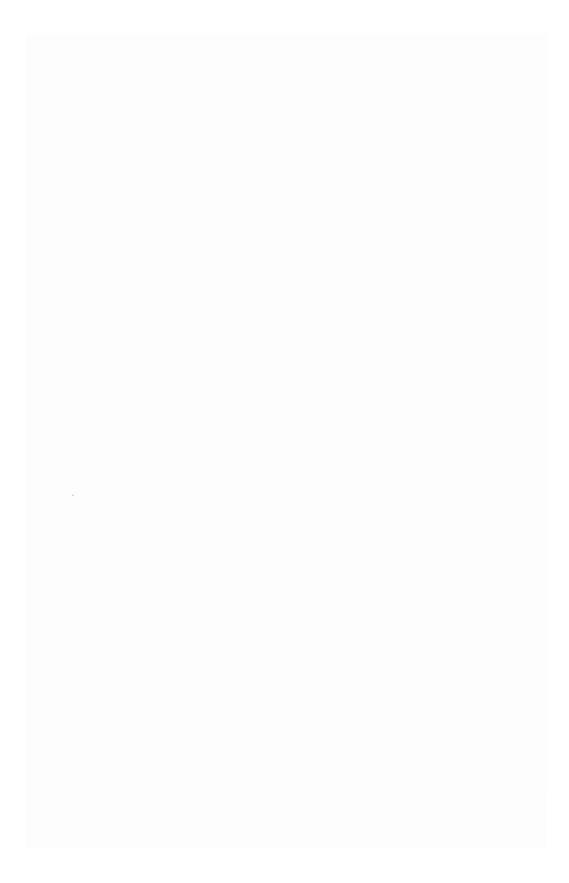
	Page
* Hepatic resection	77
- Preoperative evaluation	78
- Preparation	79
- Technical aspects	80
- The procedure	82
- Survival	90
- Complications	16
- Determinant of prognosis	92
* Staging systems for colorectal liver metastases	99
* Recurrence and repeated hepatic resection	101
* Adjuvant chemotherapy after hepatic resection	102
2- Interstitial therapy in the treatment of colorectal	
liver metastases	104
A) Cryosurgery	105
B) Interstitial laser hyperthermia	110
C) Selective photovaporization	111
D) Alcohol injection.	112
E) Interstitial radiotherapy	114
3- Chemotherapy for colorectal cancer	115
A) Systemic chemotherapy	115
- Short-term 5-FU	116
- Long-term 5-FU	118
- Combination chemotherapy	120
- 5-FU biochemical modulation	120
- Resistance to 5-FU	123
B) Regional chemotherapy (Hepatic artery chemotherapy)	123
- Rationale	124
- Randomized studies	125
- Technical aspects of pump insertion	126
- Complications	130
- Toxicity	130
 Radiation therapy combined with hepatic artery 	
chemotherapy	133
- Hepatic arterial microsphere therapy	134
4- Immunotherapy	135
Adoptive cellular therapy	135
* Adjuvant cellular therapy	136
* Monoclonal antibodies	137
6- English summary	139
7- References	141
8-Arabic summary	

List of Figures

		Page
Fig. 1:	Embryologic development of the liver	3
	Liver and peritoneal reflexions	7
Fig. 3:	The functional divisions of the liver and of the liver segments	11
Fig. 4:	Vascular anatomy of the liver in relation to the functional	
	segments	13
	Lymphatic drainage of the liver	
Fig. 6:	Intrahepatic distribution of the bile ducts	19
Fig. 7:	Anatomy of the plate system	21
	Hilar plate and left duct exposure	
Fig. 9:	The pathogenesis of cancer metastases	35
	Metastatic cascades	
Fig. 11:	Dukes' histologic classification system for rectal cancer	39
Fig. 12:	TNM staging system for colorectal cancer	43
Fig. 13:	Normal colon as displayed by hydrocolonic sonography	50
Fig. 14:	Small colonic polyp as displayed by hydrocolonic sonography	51
Fig. 15:	Colonic carcinoma as displayed by hydrocolonic sonography	51
Fig. 16:	Structures of significance during using intraoperative ultrasound	66
Fig. 17:	Position of the patient during liver resection	83
	The incisions used for partial hepatectomy	83
Fig. 19:	Anatomic hepatic resection commonly performed for hepatic	
	colorectal liver metastases	85
	Intraoperative ultrasonography	87
-	Hilar dissection	
Fig. 22:	Glisson's capsule incision	88
~	Hepatic dissection	88
	Clamping and ligation of hepatic veins	
	Steps and the techniques of cryosurgery	
	Technique of selective photovaporization	
	Cross sectional diagram of the infusaid pump	127
Fig. 28:	Insection of infusion pump	129

List of Tables

	Page
Table (1): Clinical risk factors for colorectal cancer	2.6
Table (2): Child-Pugh classification of functional status in liver disease	79
Table (3): Qualitative comparison of hepatic parenchymal transection techniques without vascular occlusion	82
Table (4): Proposed staging systems for colorectal cancer liver metastases	100
Table (5): Randomized trials of short-term infusional versus bolus 5- Fluorouracil administration	117
Table (6): Randomized trials of long-term infusional versus bolus 5-Fluorouracil administration	119
Fable (7): Randomized studies of intrahepatic versus systemic chemotherapy for hepatic metastases	126
Fable (8): Technical complications related to infusaid pump	130



Introduction

Metastatic hepatic disease is a major problem and in Western countries 90% of liver tumours are metastatic, notably from primaries in the gastrointestinal tract (Cuschieri & Giles, 1995).

Hepatic metastases are present in up to one third of patients who undergo apparently curative excision of primary disease. Excision of these "occult" hepatic metastases, made possible by recent development in hepatic imaging and resection, may improve survival after surgery for the primary disease (Allen-Mersh, 1991).

Hepatic resection for metastases from colorectal cancer has gained increasing support over the past two decades as it represents the only chance to improve long-term survival of selected patients (Doci et al., 1995).

Systemic chemotherapy represents the modality most frequently used in the treatment of hepatic metastases in spite of the attention given for the regional chemotherapy in the form of hepatic artery therapy (Niederhuber & Ensminger, 1993).

