

9th Scientific Meeting Prostate tumors Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts

AUTHORS:

TONI ZEKULIĆ

TOMISLAV KULIŠ

The Department of Medical Sciences, Committee on tumors of Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts and Croatian Society for Urological Oncology, jointly organized the 9th Prostate cancer scientific meeting. After two years of the virtual format, this year's conference was held in person, on November 11th, 2022. This is a unique multidisciplinary and multi institutional meeting that is traditionally organised in a month popularly known as Movember. It covers new advances in diagnostics and treatment of this most common malignant tumor in Croatian males. Field of prostate cancer is very vibrant with continuous changes in the world as well in Croatia. In recent times in Croatia we have seen the introduction of robotic surgery, PSMA PET CT, targeted prostate biopsies based on multiparametric MRI, and advances in systemic therapy especially the introduction of triplet therapy. All of this has been presented and lively discussed during the meeting.

Welcome speeches were held by academician Zvonko Kusić, head of Committee on tumors of Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts and academician Vida Demarin, Secretary of the Department of Medical Sciences. The whole meeting was moderated by academician Željko Kaštelan, Head of the University Hospital Centre Zagreb Department of Urology.

The meeting was opened with a lecture on prostate cancer epidemiology, held by Mario Šekerija, head of the Croatian national cancer registry. The incidence of prostate cancer is slowly decreasing, which could be a reflection of the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. The impact and effect of this decrease in incidence on mortality are yet to be seen and analyzed in the coming years. After epidemiology, Dražen Huić presented the results of PSMA PET CT, a novel diagnostic tool used in UHC Zagreb since April 2021, used specifically for prostate cancer staging. The results are



promising and encouraging, both for the patients before specific treatment and after specific treatment, in the case of biochemical relapse. In the following lectures, Monika Ulamec and Nino Sinčić covered new insights in the field of biomarkers and epigenetics in prostate cancer.

In the surgical part of the meeting, there were lectures about the best settings for prostate biopsy, and the differences between transrectal and transperineal biopsies, more precisely, in the setting of rising antibiotic resistance of *E. coli*. Kristian Krpina pointed out that the transperineal biopsy offers less need for antibiotics and lower rates of prostatitis after biopsy, but on the other hand, is more time-consuming and mandates the purchase of new and expensive equipment. The next topic covered was the need for lymphadenectomy in patients with lower-grade prostate cancer. Igor Grubišić presented the two most often used nomograms, Briganti and MSKCC nomograms. These nomograms aim to predict the risk for nodal involvement in prostate cancer and select patients that require lymphadenectomy, thus reducing overtreatment. The next topics included robotic surgery. Sandi Poteko presented results of robotic radical prostatectomies in Slovenia, performed with the DaVinci surgical platform. Tomislav Kuliš, from the UHC Zagreb, presented the result of the robotic program with the Senhance platform. Since its introduction in everyday practice, UHC Zagreb's team successfully performed more than 300 radical prostatectomies. The closing lecture of the surgical section was held by Tvrtko Hudolin, regarding physical therapy and rehabilitation of patients after radical prostatectomy.

In the oncology section, experts from Croatian largest centres lectured on adjuvant radiotherapy and the place of radiotherapy in settings of metastatic, hormone-sensitive prostate cancer. Place of radiotherapy and personalized approach radiotherapy in the treatment of prostate cancer was covered by prominent experts Dag Zahirović, Jure Murgić and Maja Baučić. Tomislav Omrčen from UHC Split presented indications for systemic therapy with docetaxel and abiraterone in patients with locally advanced disease. Mirela Šambić-Penc held a lecture regarding doublet and triplet therapy in the treatment of metastatic hormone-sensitive disease, using a combination of radiotherapy, ADT and ARTA. The oncology section was concluded by Marija Gamulin, with an overview of treatment options and management algorithms in metastatic prostate cancer.

The meeting was well attended, with more than 140 participants, including specialists in urology, oncology, radiology, pathology and nuclear medicine, as well as medical students from School of Medicine of University of Zagreb. The discussions were vibrant and on point. In his final words, chairman Željko Kaštelan, once again pointed out that patients with prostate cancer require a patient-specific and multidisciplinary approach to ensure the best care.

