

Total Laparoscopic Radical Trachelectomy with Uterine Artery Preservation: Case report

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Objective: Radical trachelectomy has been widely recognized as a feasible treatment for early stage cervical cancer in women who require to preserve fertility. During this procedure the uterine artery is divided from its origin to allow adequate resection of paracervical tissues; the uterus remains viable via ovarian vessels. However, little is known about possible adverse effects of the decreased blood supply to the uterine corpus in the pregnancy following such surgery. It seems likely that preservation of the ascending branches of the uterine arteries could be beneficial for subsequent pregnancies.

Case Report: A 35-year-old woman underwent a LLETZ conization. Histology revealed a cervical squamous cancer 12x9x8mm in diameter, grade 2, with no lympho-vascular invasion, FIGO stage IB1. Due to her desire to preserve fertility she was treated with total laparoscopic radical trachelectomy (TLRT) with uterine artery preservation and laparoscopic pelvic lymphadenectomy with sentinel node detection. During this procedure, the uterine arteries were preserved and only descending branches were coagulated and divided. The blood loss was 150ml. In the final pathology report no residual tumor was found in the cervical specimen, as well as 26 pelvic lymph nodes including 3 sentinel nodes were free of tumor. The postoperative period was uneventful.

Conclusion: TLRT with uterine artery preservation might be a safe fertility-preserving procedure for early-stage cervical cancer. However, more data are required on fertility rate and pregnancy outcome in order to fully evaluate the possible therapeutic efficacy of TLRT with uterine artery preservation.

Keywords : cervical cancer, fertility, uterine artery preservation, radical surgery

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