

Laparoscopic Approach to Carcinoma of the Endometrium (LACE)

Research overview

The Laparoscopic Approach to Carcinoma of the Endometrium (LACE) trial is a multicentred randomised clinical trial which completed recruitment of 760 patients in 2010. The aim of the LACE trial is to determine if total laparoscopic hysterectomy (TLH) results in equivalent disease-free survival compared to the current standard treatment of total abdominal hysterectomy (TAH) in patients with clinical Stage 1 endometrial cancer.

The primary hypothesis is that for patients with Stage I endometrial cancer, disease-free survival at 4.5 years following TLH is equivalent to disease free survival at 4.5 years following TAH.

The follow-up data collection for the LACE trial women has been completed now.

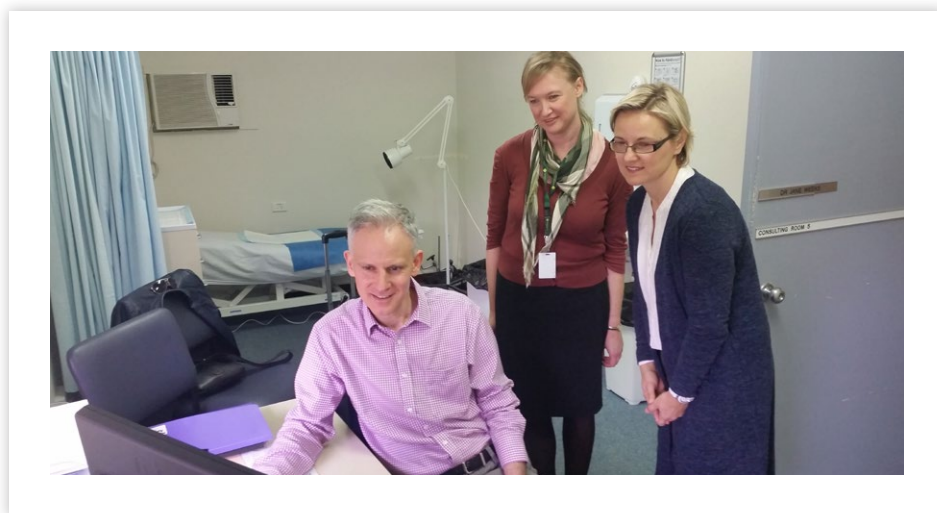
None of our patients were 'lost' to follow up and in total about 1,258 visits were entered on time. We received lots of positive comments from the ladies about the care they received over the course of the years, and they were pleased to be in the trial.

A number of publications have resulted from the LACE trial and have shown:

- Patients who had a TLH had significantly better quality of life during both, the early and late phase recovery period compared to patients who had a TAH, thus suggesting significantly improved recovery from TLH than from TAH
- TAH patients required pain medication for longer and had higher mean pain scores up to four weeks post-surgery compared to patients randomised to TLH
- Among TAH patients who received epidural analgesia, the risk of postoperative adverse events was increased
- The incidence of postsurgical complications associated with TLH is significantly reduced when compared to TAH. The odds of experiencing a surgical adverse event were 73% greater in women assigned to TAH
- TLH is not only associated with superior clinical outcomes but also is cost effective.

These findings are of significant clinical relevance. It has resulted in changed practice. The default procedure for a patient with endometrial cancer attending the Western Australian Gynaecologic Cancer Service is a total laparoscopic hysterectomy with removal of the ovaries and tubes.

Our thanks to Cherry Young for her diligence in achieving such an excellent record.



THE TEAM

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