



Advanced Pelvic Malignancy:
Defining Resectability – Be Aggressive

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CANADIAN SURGERY FORUM CANADIEN DE CHIRURGIE

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

I have no conflicts of interest



Advanced Pelvic Malignancies



- Locally Advanced Rectal Cancer
- Recurrent Rectal Cancer – less common entity now
- Anal Canal Cancer
- Locally Advanced GU Cancer – prostate, bladder
- Locally Advanced Gyn Cancer – cervix, endometrial
- Soft Tissue or Bony Sarcoma of pelvis

Surg Oncol Clin N Am. 2005;14(2):397-417
Sem Surg Oncol 2000;18:199-206

Selection

- Patient factors – physiologic age/ reserve, motivated, fully informed, ideally with good supports
- Tumor factors
 - Biology – locally advanced vs. recurrent
 - Staging – MRI pelvis modality of choice
 - CT C/A/P +- CT/ PET

Multidisciplinary

- Chemoradiation for downstaging
 - ? Re-irradiation if feasible; other options – brachytherapy, intraoperative
- Trial of chemotherapy (time) to test biology?
- Multiple surgical specialists – surgical oncology/ colorectal, urologic, plastics, +- vascular, +- orthopedics
- Well-informed, committed patient

Unresectable?

- Poor performance status
- Distant metastatic disease
- Pelvic sidewall involvement
- Common iliac node involvement
- Encasement of external iliac vessels
- Extension of tumor through sciatic notch
- High Sacral Involvement (above S2/3 junction)
- Predicted R2 resection
- Sciatic nerve (bilateral) involvement
- Circumferential bone involvement

Metastatic Disease

- Lung/ Liver metastases
- Retroperitoneal/ Para-aortic lymphadenopathy
- Peritoneal Carinomatosis

Local Resectability

- Based on preoperative imaging – MRI
- Intraoperative palpation alone insufficient to determine resectability
 - Rectal cancer on sacrum is fixed; Sarcoma on symphysis is fixed – Neither unresectable
- Reserve term unresectable for anatomic demonstration of the involvement of vital structures in which resection would be incompatible with meaningful quality of life or result in death

Resectability

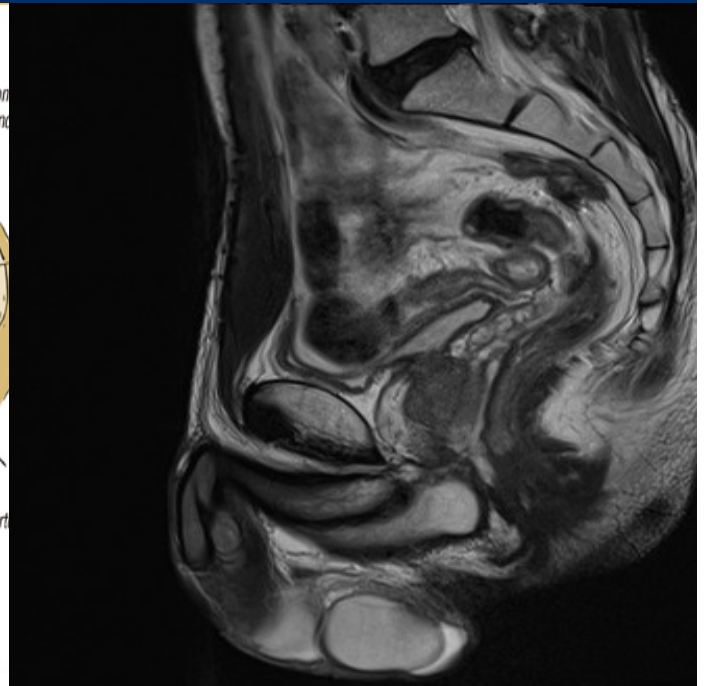
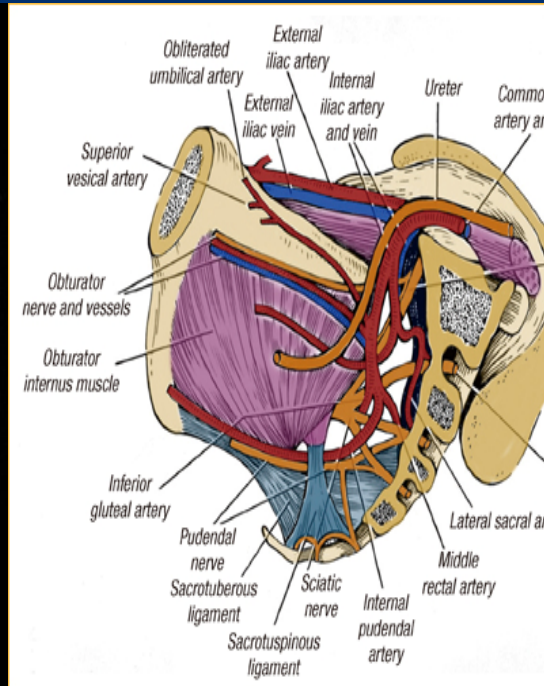
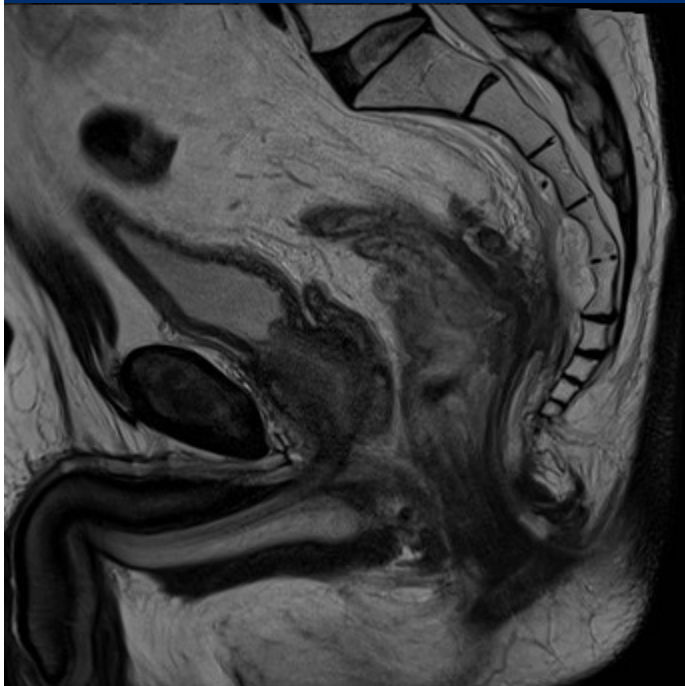
- “Be aggressive” – if touching/ adherent on preoperative imaging– **plan** en bloc resection
 - 40-85% of adhesions are malignant
 - Only margin negative resections/ improved local control/ survival
- All central pelvic organs resectable
 - Need to “be prepared” (patient and surgeon) – majority don’t have multivisceral resection
 - Hysterectomy/ partial vaginectomy
 - Partial cystectomy
 - Total cystectomy with trigone involved
 - Proctectomy

J Natl Cancer Inst 2001;93:583-96

J Natl Cancer Inst 2006;98:1474-81

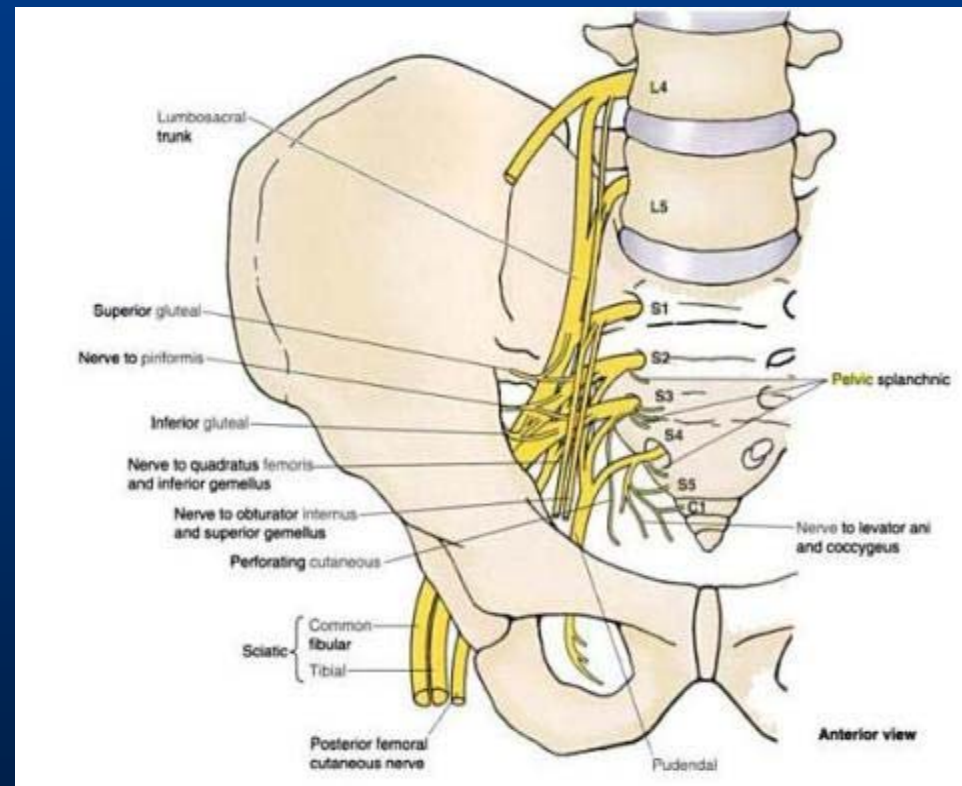
Sacral Resection

- Level of resection and nerve root sacrifice is main determinant of resectability
- May differ based on different tumor types and biology



Sacral Resection

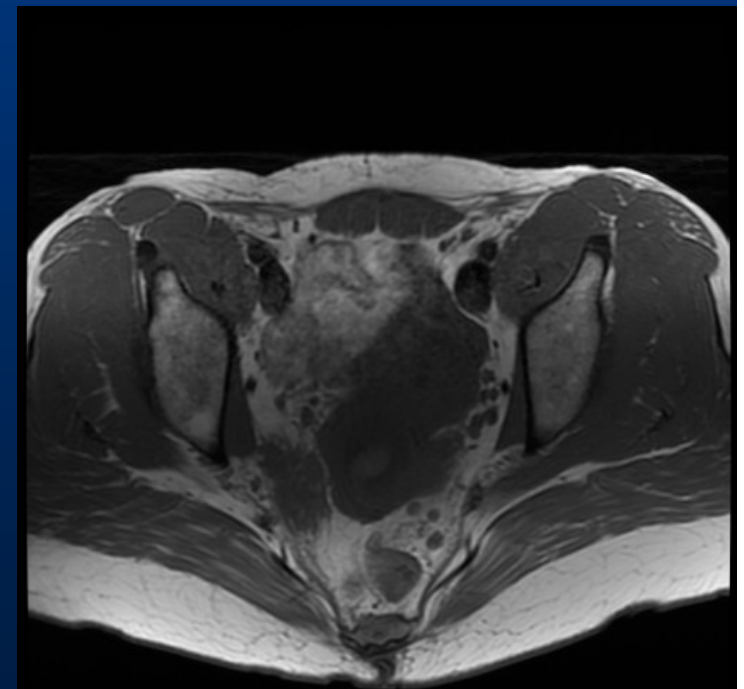
- S4 and below – impaired perineal sensation
- S3 – impaired bowel/bladder/sexual function
- S2- impaired ambulation
- S1, L5 – unable to walk
- But similar R0 resection rates and long-term outcomes as



J Neurosurg Spine 2005;3:111-22
 Dis Colon Rectum 2014;57:1153-61

Sidewall Resection

- Peritoneum, Ureter
- Internal iliac vessels – beyond superior gluteal branch
- Common iliac vessels
- Bony pelvis
- Pelvic resection
- Sciatic, femoral nerve
- Hemipelvectomy



Unresectable?

- Absolute
 - Poor performance
 - Bilateral sciatic nerve involvement
 - Circumferential bone involvement } hemicorporectomy?
- Relative
 - Extension of tumor through sciatic notch
 - Encasement of external iliac vessels
 - High Sacral Involvement (above S2/3 junction) – however, offered in some tumor types
 - Predicted R2 resection (palliative exenteration?)
 - Irresectable distant metastases

Conclusion

- Appropriate **selection** – patient factors, tumor factors noting different tumor biologies, staging, multidisciplinary assessment plan
- Unresectable – term based on anatomic demonstration of the involvement of vital structures – result in death or incompatible with meaningful QOL
- Central pelvic organs resectable
- Differing implications for sacral vs. sidewall extension
- Resection is the **ONLY** opportunity of long-term local control and survival



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