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Lack Of Accuracy Of Selection Criteria In Low-risk Prostate Cancer Patients Eligible For Focal Treatment

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INTRODUCTION

- Radical treatment for localized prostate cancer (PCa) could overtreat many clinically non-significant cases. Focal ablative therapies have been introduced for these cases.
- The multifocal nature of PCa and the inability of current imaging to accurately identify all the PCa foci have been postulated to negatively impact on focal therapy efficacy.
- We conducted a retrospective single-center study on patients who underwent radical prostatectomy (RP) for low-risk PCa, with the aim to evaluate the nature of these PCa at the surgical specimen, and their eligibility for focal therapy.



MATERIALS & METHODS

Retrospective analysis of **151 patients** who underwent RP for low-risk PCa (Gleason Score \leq 3+3 and PSA \leq 10 ng/ml)
between January 2016 and December 2018

ELIGIBLE CRITERIA
Prostate biopsy performed in our Institution
Bioptic Gleason Score \leq 3+3
\leq 4 positive cores
\leq cT2a
PSA \leq 10 ng/ml
PSAD \leq 0.2 and prostate volume \leq 70 cm ³
No previous treatment for PCa
No previous treatment for BPH

Patients eligible for focal therapy: **50 (33%)**
Pre-biopsy prostate mpMRI: 29 (58%)



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RESULTS

HISTOLOGICAL FINDINGS IN PATIENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FOCAL THERAPY

Prostate biopsy

	n (%)
Bilateral positive cores	19 (38)
Unilateral positive cores	31 (62)
<i>Unilateral unifocal</i>	0 (0)
<i>Unilateral multifocal</i>	25 (81)
<i>One focus (≥ 2 close positive cores) plus distant positive unilateral cores</i>	6 (9)

Radical prostatectomy

	n (%)
Upgrading (overall)	28 (56)
<i>Gleason Score 3+4</i>	23
<i>Gleason Score 4+3</i>	3
<i>Gleason Score 4+4</i>	2
Undetermined Gleason Score	1 (2)
Gleason Score 3+3	21 (42)
Upgrading in patients with unilateral disease	16 (52)
<i>Gleason Score 3+4</i>	14
<i>Gleason Score 4+3</i>	2
<i>Gleason Score 4+4</i>	0
Undetermined Gleason Score	1 (3)
Gleason Score 3+3	14 (45)

More than 50% of patients with bioptic GS ≤ 6 had a histological upgrade at the RP specimen (both in the total number of patients and in those with unilateral positive cores).



RESULTS

HISTOLOGICAL FINDINGS IN PATIENTS WITH UNILATERAL DISEASE AT THE BIOPSY

	n (%)
Unilaterality at biopsy	31/50 (62)
Unilaterality at the surgical specimen	14/31 (45)
Unilateral and multifocal	5
Unilateral and unifocal	9

More than 50% of patients with unilateral PCa at biopsy had a bilateral PCa at the RP specimen (14/17 of those: multifocal)

UNILATERAL POSITIVE CORES CONFIRMED AT THE SURGICAL SPECIMEN (14/31):

	N°(%)
Pathological Gleason Score 3+3	7/14 (50)
Unifocal	5
Multifocal	2
Pathological Gleason Score > 3+3	7/14 (50)
Gleason Score 3+4	5
Gleason Score 4+3	2
Unifocal	6
Multifocal	1

The 50% of patients with unilateral PCa confirmed at the surgical specimen presented a GS > 6

RESULTS

HISTOLOGICAL FINDINGS IN PATIENTS WITH BILATERAL DISEASE AT THE BIOPSY

Confirmed bilaterality (n=17)	n (%)
Pathological Gleason Score 3+3	6 (35)
Unifocal	2
Multifocal	4
Pathological Gleason Score > 3+3	11 (65)
<i>Gleason Score 3+4</i>	8
<i>Gleason Score 4+3</i>	1
<i>Gleason Score 4+4</i>	2
Unifocal	1
Multifocal	10

Confirmed bilateral PCa showed an histologic upgrade in 65% of cases

mpMRI FINDINGS

mpMRI (n=29)	n (%)
PI-RADS ≤ 3	20 (68)
PI-RADS 4	9 (32)
Unilateral nodule	27 (93)
Unilateral histology at RP	8 (26)
Bilateral nodules	2 (7)
Bilateral histology at RP	2 (7)
Correlation mpMRI-histology at RP	22,2%
<i>Cohen's k coefficient</i>	-0,34

There is a weak matching between the radiological and the surgical findings.

CONCLUSIONS

- In our experience, there is a weak correlation between the bioptic/radiological (mpMRI) findings and the findings at the surgical specimen in patients with bioptic Gleason Score $\leq 3+3$ and PSA ≤ 10 ng/ml
- mpMRI is not a fully reliable tool in the selection of patients eligible for focal therapy.
- In our study, only 10% of patients had a unilateral, unifocal, and low grade (Gleason Score 3+3) disease at the surgical specimen.
- Our data emphasize the current need for improving the selection of PCa patients eligible for focal treatment.
- Moreover, there is an emerging need to establish *active surveillance* protocols for the untreated prostate gland, to detect contralateral/multifocal early stage diseases.

