

Radical, definitive, external beam radiotherapy for rectal cancer

Arkadiusz Sprawka, Dobromira Tyc-Szczepaniak,
Edward Skrocki, Lucyna Pietrzak, Krzysztof Bujko

From the Departments of Radiotherapy, Maria Skłodowska-Curie Memorial Cancer Centre and Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland

Conclusion

Our preliminary results suggest that radical radiotherapy for primary or recurrent, inoperable rectal cancer provides an opportunity for cure

Background and purpose

To assess preliminary results of definitive radiotherapy in patients with rectal cancer who refused, were unfit for surgery or had unresectable lesions.

Material and methods

- 25 patients (9 with primary tumor and 16 with pelvic recurrence after surgery)
- The maximal tumor dimension ranged from 2 to 10 cm, median 5 cm;
- On rectal examination the tumor was fixed in 8 patients.
- Radical external beam radiotherapy (22 had 3D treatment planning). The total dose: 55 - 68 Gy, median 64 Gy; 1.8-2.5 Gy per fraction. In 9 patients irradiation was combined with 5-fluorouracyl and Leucovorin. The remaining 16 patients were unfit for chemotherapy.
- The follow-up for living patients ranged from 12 to 73 months, median 37 months. One patient was lost to follow-up.
- The local control was defined as a lack of tumor progression

Results

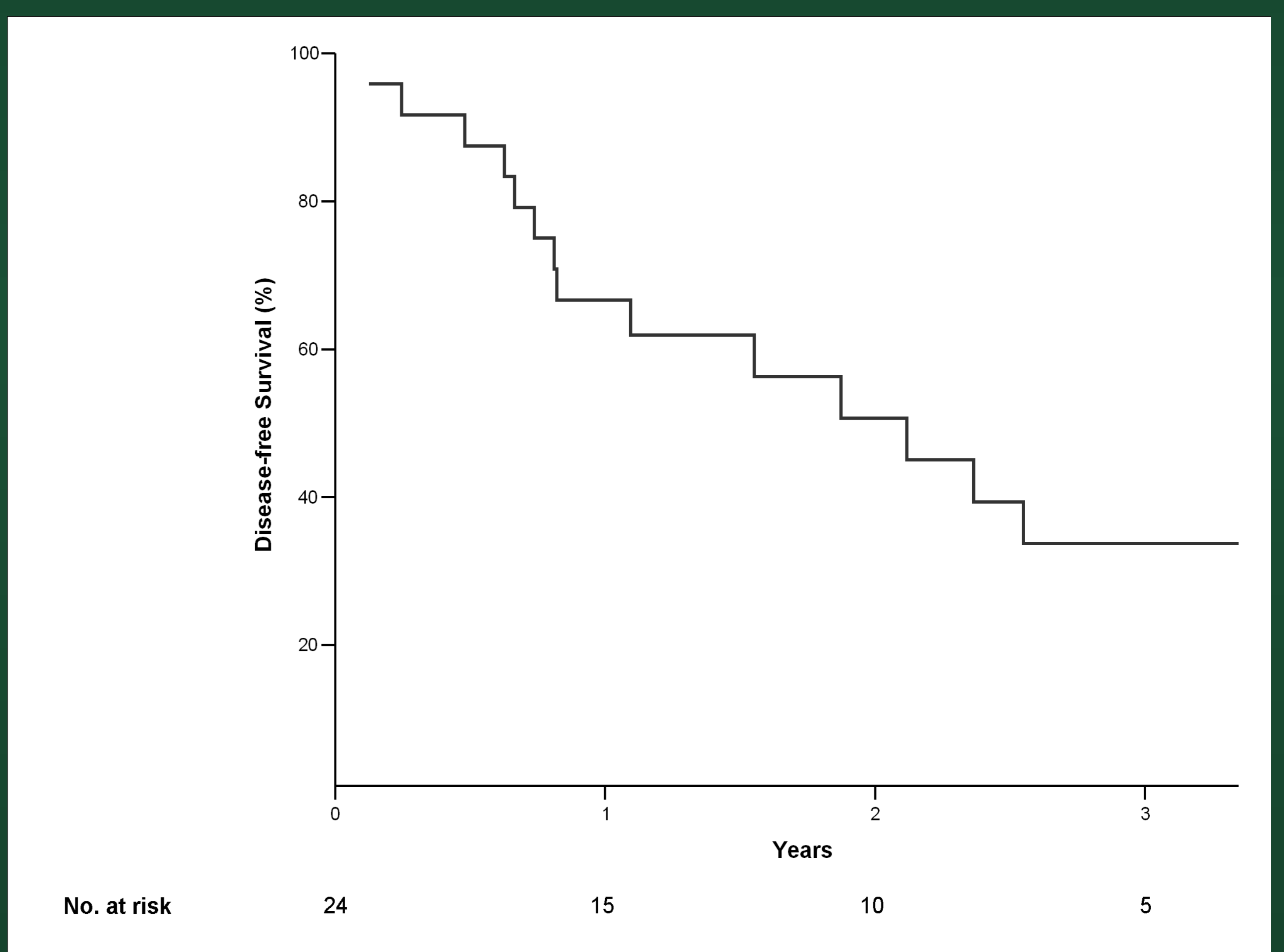
Alive and free of cancer - 8 (32%) patients including 3 with initially fixed tumor.

3-year disease-free survival - 34% (95% CI 12% – 56%)

3-year cumulative incidence of local recurrences - 55% (95% CI 31% – 79%)

Severe late toxicity - 1 patient (4%).

3-year disease-free survival



3-year cumulative incidence of local recurrences

