

Outcomes, Healthcare Resource Utilization and Costs of Patients Receiving Definitive Versus Non-Definitive Treatment for Muscle-Invasive Bladder Cancer: a Real-World Analysis within the Veterans Affairs System

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INTRODUCTION

- Approximately 50% of patients with muscle-invasive bladder cancer (MIBC) do not receive definitive treatments (DT), including radical cystectomy (RC) or chemoradiation (CRT), despite established survival benefits¹⁻⁴.
- Retrospective real-world data were used to better understand and compare demographic, clinical characteristics, survival outcomes, and healthcare resource utilization (HCRU) and associated costs among patients with MIBC receiving DT vs. no definitive treatment (NDT).

METHODS

- Patients from the United States Veterans Affairs (VA) System diagnosed with MIBC between 2010-2019 were identified via a validated natural language processing (NLP) model analyzing pathology reports of transurethral resection of bladder tumor (TURBT) and supplementary chart review⁵.
- Index date was defined as the first date of MIBC diagnosis. All eligible patients had baseline periods of ≥ 12 months pre-index and follow-up periods of > 3 months post-index.
- Baseline characteristics were summarized and compared by omnibus (i.e., global) tests.
- The impact of treatment groups on overall survival (OS) was visualized by Kaplan-Meier plot and tested by a multivariable Cox model with time-dependent covariates. Competing risk model was used for BC-specific survival to account for death from other causes and visualized with cumulative incidence function curves.
- All-cause and bladder-cancer specific (BC-specific) HCRU and associated costs were summarized.

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RESULTS

- We identified **1,524 patients with MIBC**, of whom **650 received NDT**, **740 were treated with RC**, and **134 were treated with CRT**.
- Patients who received NDT were older at MIBC diagnosis** (median age in years: 78 [NDT], 68 [RC], 72 [CRT]; $p < 0.001$).

- An **OS advantage** was observed for **patients receiving DT vs. NDT** in both **unadjusted** Kaplan-Meier plot and the **adjusted** multivariable Cox model (adjusted hazard ratios (HR): 0.49 [RC], 0.65 [CRT]; both, $p < 0.001$) (**Figures 1 and 2**)

- The probability of **BC-specific mortality**, accounting for the probability of mortality due to other causes, was **higher** over time **among those with NDT vs. DT** in both **unadjusted** and **adjusted** models (**Figures 3 and 4**). Results in 2 and 4 were adjusted for age, year of diagnosis, race, smoking status, Charlson Comorbidity Index (CCI), proportion living below poverty line in zip code, region, presence of carcinoma in situ (CIS) and history of intravesical Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) and/or chemotherapy.

- Inpatient HCRU and costs were highest for patients receiving RC. Outpatient HCRU and costs were highest for patients receiving CRT.

FIGURE 1: Unadjusted Kaplan-Meier plot of OS

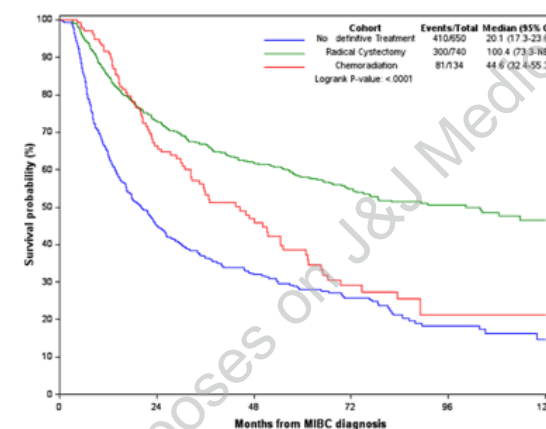


FIGURE 2: Adjusted Kaplan-Meier plot of OS

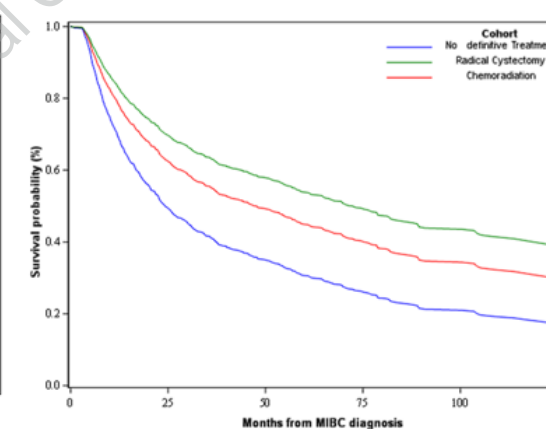


FIGURE 3: Unadjusted Cumulative incidence plot of BC-specific mortality

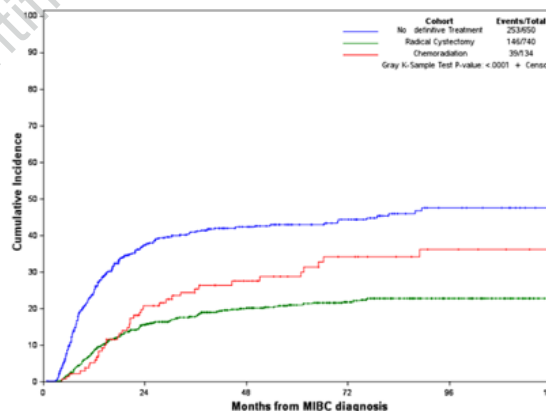
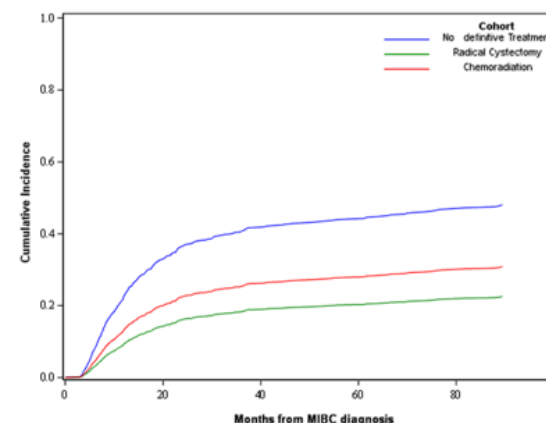


FIGURE 4: Adjusted Cumulative incidence plot of BC-specific mortality



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KEY TAKEAWAY



Patients receiving NDT were older, had significantly worse survival, and incurred lower but still substantial HCRU compared to those receiving DT.

CONCLUSIONS



Patients receiving NDT were older and had worse overall survival compared to those receiving DT.



These results within the VA may not reflect those in other systems or populations (e.g., Medicare, Commercial) or costs within specific timeframes.



Further studies are needed to evaluate other impacts of DT and NDT on patients including productive life-years lost and the physical and emotional burden.



These findings highlight unmet needs among MIBC patients receiving NDT and underscore the requirement for more tolerable novel therapies to improve the prognosis of these patients.

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DISCLOSURES

RZ and SD have no disclosures to report. BL, RH, EOC, JG report employment with J&J. KK is a shareholder in J&J and CG Oncology. HS employment with J&J and ownership of J&J stocks. SB owns J&J stocks and was a J&J employee at the time of study. SJF consultant to Janssen, Astellas, Bayer, Pfizer, Sanofi, Sumitomo, Novartis, AstraZeneca, Merck, and Eli Lilly. SBW reports advisory board and consultant fees from Janssen, Merck, Photocure, Valar Labs and serves as BJUI section editor. APM reports honoraria from UpToDate and is a co-creator of intellectual property owned by the University of Southern California related to a prognostic panel for urinary bladder cancer. JI, SM, JP, CE, AD report research funding paid to the lab by: Merck, Janssen, Exact Sciences, Astellas, Delfi Diagnostics, Guardant Health, Photocure, AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals, Reinvestment Partners, Prostate Genomics, Novartis, Vir Biotechnology, Coloplast corporation, Roche Pharmaceuticals

