Effect of Lymphovascular Space Invasion on Survival of Stage I Epithelial Ovarian Cancer

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1. This is a “multicenter retrospective study.” Discuss why this study design was chosen for this particular research question. What other study designs would be appropriate or inappropriate to answer this question? What are the barriers to other designs?

2. Discuss the limitations of the study’s design, including whether or not association or causation can be determined. What is the difference between the two?

3. The authors conclude that “Lymphovascular space invasion is an important histologic feature to identify a subgroup of patients with increased risk of recurrence in stage 1 epithelial ovarian cancer.” Discuss whether or not you agree with this conclusion given the findings of the study.

4. Discuss the differences between a univariate analysis and a multivariate analysis. What variables did the authors include in their multivariate analysis? How did the authors choose variables that were included? Discuss whether or not any important confounding variables were excluded.

5. Review ACOG Practice Bulletin No. 83 “Management of Adnexal Masses.” How are newly diagnosed adnexal masses evaluated in your institution? What criteria do you use to decide whether or not the patient should be referred to a gynecologic oncologist?

6. In this series of patients with stage 1 disease, 237 (34.2%) cases did not undergo primary comprehensive surgical staging including lymphadenectomy. Discuss why these women may not have undergone staging. Discuss how a woman who is diagnosed with ovarian cancer only on pathology after surgery would be managed clinically in your institution.

7. The authors conclude that women who received greater than six cycles of chemotherapy had improved disease-free intervals compared to women who did not receive six cycles of chemotherapy. What are your institution’s criteria for administering chemotherapy for stage 1 epithelial ovarian cancer? Discuss the risks of postoperative chemotherapy. Did the authors take these risks into account when they made their recommendations?

8. How do you counsel patients with stage 1 epithelial ovarian cancer about risk of recurrence? Will the findings of this study influence your counseling?