



# Trattamenti integrati nel carcinoma della vulva

## La radioterapia: Indicazione e risultati clinici



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**Radioterapia Oncologica**  
**Università "Sapienza"**  
**Roma**





the peak 70 and 79 years of age,

**4–5% of the genital malignancies in women.**

**3,900 new cases and 920 deaths /year in the US**

*American Cancer Society (2010) Cancer Facts & Figures*

**88% of the patients, the symptoms had been present for about 6 months**

**28% longer than 5 years.**



prevalenza 2006  
9.953/2.243.953 ( 4.4%)

Breast	522 235
Colon and rectum	296 687
Bladder	223 533
Prostate	216 716
Head and neck	106 727
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	95 250
Corpus uteri	91 689
Kidney and other urinary organs	84 413
Thyroid	81 131
Skin melanoma	80 802
Lung	75 365
Stomach	69 225
Cervix uteri	53 361
Leukaemia	51 378
Hodgkin lymphoma	42 723
Ovary	37 826
Testis	35 617
Brain	30 354
Connective and soft tissue	21 917
Liver	21 416
Multiple myeloma	21 126
Bone	11 783
Pancreas	9 636
Salivary gland	5 113
Vagina and vulva	8 853
Papillary carcinoma	7 481
Small intestine	4 634
Penis	3 930
Oesophagus	3 737
Choroidal melanoma	3 205
Mesothelioma	2 064

SINTESI

e nel

(21%)

(22%)

(23%)

(14%)

(8%)

(12%)

12%

2600

10 years

**New aspects of vulvar cancer: Changes in localization and age of onset**  
 Monika Hampl <sup>a,\*</sup>, Stella Deckers-Figiel <sup>a</sup>, Juergen A. Hampl <sup>b</sup>, Daniel Rein <sup>a</sup>, Hans G. Bender <sup>a</sup>

Gynecologic Oncology 109 (2008) 340–345

From 01/1980 until 06/2007

224 pts

I period

1980-1989

53 pts mean age 65.6

II period

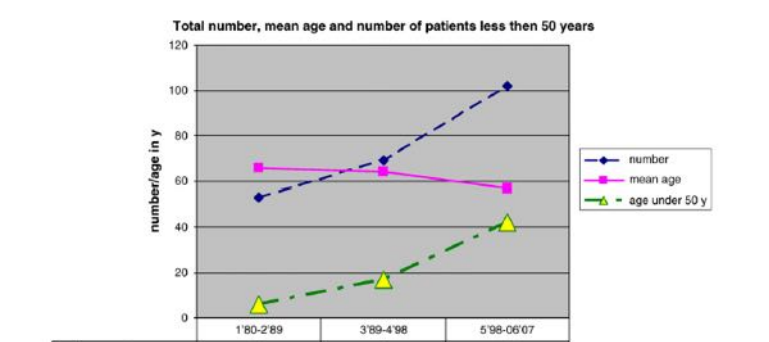
1989-1998

69 pts mean age 63.9

III period

1998-2007

102 pts mean age 57



**Total increase 192%**

**Two-third of the tumors women age <50 years were HPV-positive with a nearly 4-time increase in younger patients (+372%) due to HPV high risk infection.**

Gynecologic Oncology Group risk groups for vulvar carcinoma: improvement in survival in the modern era

Landrum LM      Gynecol Oncol 2007

**175 pts**

Risk classification	Tumor size/lymph nodes	5-year survival rate	Historic group Survival rate
Minimal	Tumor ≤2 cm and negative lymph nodes	51%	97.9%
Low	Tumor 2.1-8 cm and negative lymph nodes	40%	87.4%
	Tumor ≤2 cm and one positive lymph node		
Intermediate	Tumor >8 cm and negative lymph nodes	6%	74.8%
	Tumor >2 cm and one positive lymph node		
	Tumor ≤8 cm and two unilateral positive lymph nodes		
High	Tumor >8 cm and two unilateral positive lymph nodes	3%	29%
	Three or more positive lymph nodes		
	Bilateral positive lymph nodes		

Survival among the minimal and low risk groups is preserved in spite of less radical surgery.

5-year survival rate for intermediate and high risk patients also appears to be improved. This is likely a result of **advancement in adjuvant chemo-radiation** and a **younger patient population** that presents with less advanced disease

# SURGICAL CONCEPTS EVOLUTION

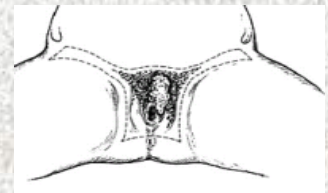
Cancer of the vulva.

*Taussig FJ Am J Obstet Gynecol 1940;40:764.*

**1950**

The anatomy of the lymphatic drainage of the vulva and its influence on the radical operation for carcinoma.

*Way S. Ann Coll Surg Eng 1948;3:187.*



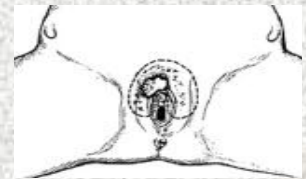
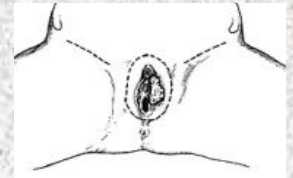
Radical vulvectomy and bilateral inguinal lymphadenectomy through separate groin incisions.

*Hacker NF Obstet Gynecol 1981;58:574.*

**1980**

An alternative approach to early cancer of the vulva.

*DiSaia PJ, Am J Obstet Gynecol 1979;133:825.*



**1990**

Intraoperative lymphatic mapping for vulvar cancer.

*Levenback C Obstet Gynecol 1994;84:163.*





- 1969** FIGO Clinical staging
- 1988** FIGO Surgical staging
- 2000** FIGO Surgical staging revised

stage	FIGO staging 1969	FIGO staging 1988	FIGO staging 2000
	Clinical staging	Surgical staging	Surgical staging
0	Carcinoma in situ	Carcinoma in situ	carcinoma in situ
I	Tumour confined to vulva, 2cm or less in largest diameter, and no suspicious groin nodes	Tumour confined to vulva or perineum, < 2cm in greatest dimension, nodes are negative	Ia: Tumour confined to vulva or vulva and perineum, 2cm or less in greatest dimension and with stroma invasion no greater than 1.0mm. Nodes are negative. Ib: Tumour confined to vulva or vulva and perineum, 2 cm or less in greatest dimension and with stromal invasion greater than 1.0 mm. Nodes are negative
II	Tumour confined to vulva, more than 2 cm in diameter, and no suspicious groin nodes	Tumour confined to vulva or perineum, > 2cm in greatest dimension, nodes are negative	Tumour confined to vulva or vulva and perineum, more than 2 cm in greatest dimension. Nodes are negative
III	Tumour of any size with: (1) Adjacent spread to the urethra and/or vagina, perineum, and anus, and/or (2) Clinically suspicious lymph nodes in either groin	Tumour of any size with: (1) Adjacent spread to the lower urethra or anus, and/or (2) Unilateral regional lymph nodes metastases	(1) Tumour invades any of the following: lower urethra, vagina, anus. (2) Unilateral regional lymph nodes metastases
IVa	IV: Tumour of any size: (1) infiltrating the bladder mucosa, or the rectal mucosa, or both, including the upper part of the urethral mucosa, and/or (2) fixed to the bone, and/or (3) other distant metastases		
IVb		Any distant metastases, including pelvic	Any distant metastases, including pelvic



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SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

## Revised FIGO staging for carcinoma of the vulva

Neville F. Hacker

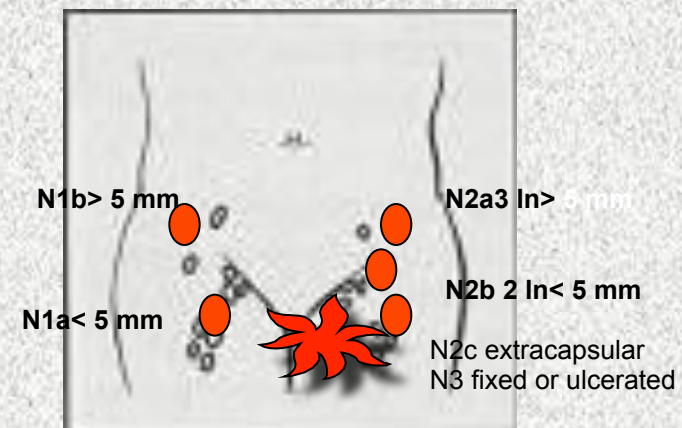
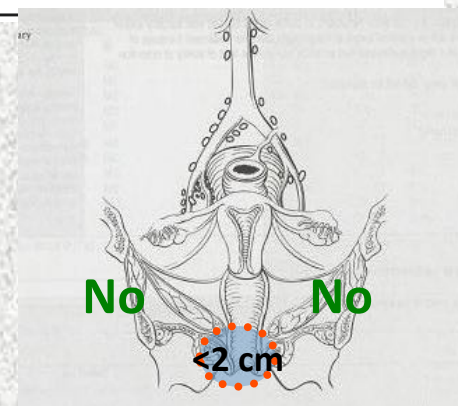
Royal Hospital for Women and University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

**1) Stage IA will remain unchanged because this is the only group of patients with a negligible risk of lymph node metastases, but**

**2) Stage I and II have been combined.**

**3) The number and morphology of the involved nodes have been taken into account,**

**4) bilaterality of positive nodes has been discounted.**





To decrease the incidence of locoregional failures after wide local excision in patients with stage I and II tumors

To serve as an alternative to inguinal or pelvic lymph node dissection in patients with clinically negative nodes

## The role of Radiation therapy

To treat patients before surgery for locally extensive tumors that may be considered inoperable initially

To reduce the incidence of postsurgical failure in patients with stage III and IV disease;

## **Patients with T1a disease have no risk of groin metastases and do not need lymphadenectomy**

*Hacker, Cancer 93; Homesley, Cancer 95; Benedet, Int J Gynecol Oncol 2000;  
Magrina Int J Gynecol Oncol 2000*

**Omission of groin irradiation seems to be justified in low risk patients T1, N0-1 stage, no central location, no vessel invasion, tumor thickness  $\leq 2$  mm and G1-G2 tumors**

*Manavi, Int J Radiat Biol Phys 97*



**c T1- 2    cN0    M0**

**radical excision of the tumour and bilateral inguinal and femoral lymph node dissection**

**tumour recurrences in the groin after surgery is often reported as less than 2% .**

*Petereit 1993, Stehman 1992; Van der Velden 1996*



### **Wound healing**

**Morley 76, 50%**  
**Homeseley 86, 49%**  
**Podtraz 83,85%**  
**Stehman 93, 48%**  
**Hallak, 2007, 19%**  
**Petereit 93, 72%**

### **Lymphedema**

**Homeseley 86, 27%**  
**Podtraz 83, 69%**  
**Stehman 93, 25%**  
**Hallak, 2007 7%**

2011

Primary groin irradiation versus primary groin surgery for early vulvar cancer (Review)

van der Velden J, Foss G, Lawrie TA



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## Background

**Despite changes in technique, morbidity after surgery for vulvar cancer is high and Mainly related to the groin dissections. Primary radiotherapy to the groin is expected to result in lower morbidity. However, studies on the efficacy of primary radiotherapy to the groin in term of groin recurrences and survival show conflicting results**



SAPIENZA  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

# Groin dissection versus groin radiation in carcinoma of the vulva: a Gynecologic Oncology Group Study.

*Stehman FB Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys 1992;*

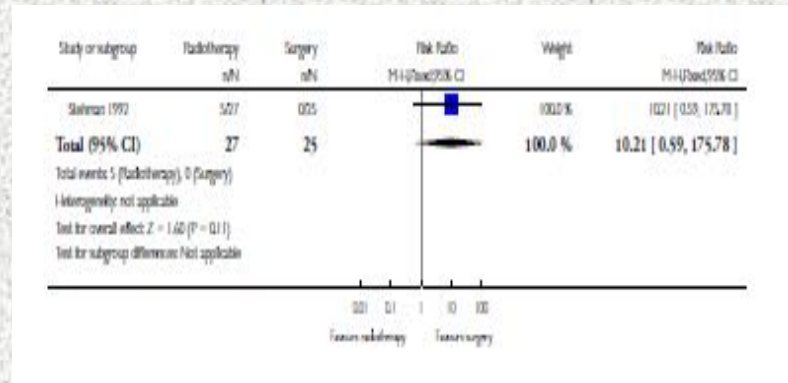
300 pts T1-3 cN0

**STOPPED EARLY**

**52 pts**

**Radiotherapy  
50 Gy**

**Inguinal-femoral  
lymphadenectomy**



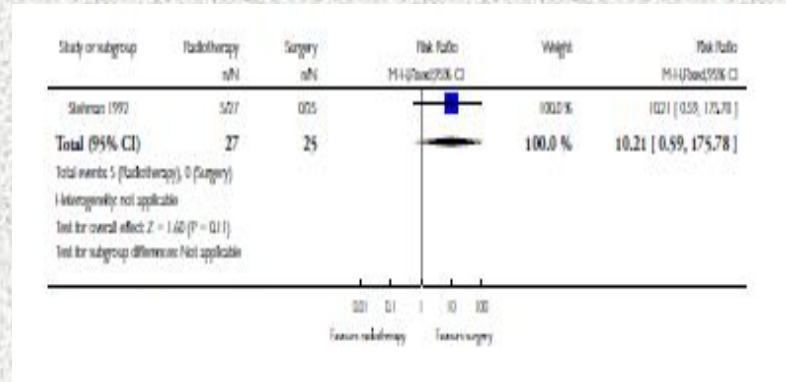
**5/27 (18.5%)**

**P=0.02**

**0/25 (100%)**

# Groin dissection versus groin radiation in carcinoma of the vulva: a Gynecologic Oncology Group Study.

*Stehman FB Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys 1992;*

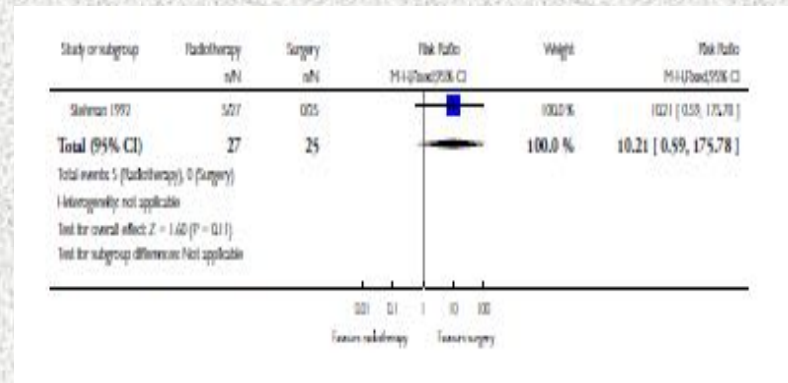


## Statistical bias

- 1) The patients were not identically distributed in both study group
- 2) not used important prognostic factors indicating the Involvement of the lymph nodes such as tumor thickness and vascular infiltration

## Groin dissection versus groin radiation in carcinoma of the vulva: a Gynecologic Oncology Group Study.

*Stehman FB Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys 1992;*



### Radiotherapeutic bias

50 Gy prescription at 3 cm below the anterior skin surface, with 50% of the dose with electron beam 12-13 MeV whereas the primary site and the pelvic nodes were not treated

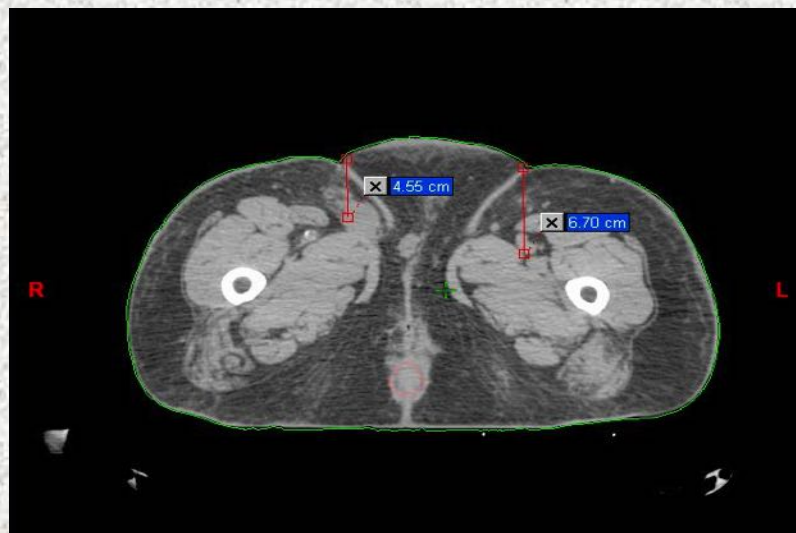
Lymph nodes deeper than 4 cm could have been undertreated

Femoral vessel depth and the implications for groin node radiation.  
Koh, WJ

*Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 93

**Reanalysis**  
**substantial underdosage of the target volume**

**the three failure treated with electrons received estimated dose of**  
**21.8-33.05 Gy**





# GROIN NODE IRRADIATION FOR VULVAR CANCER: TREATMENT PLANNING MUST DO MORE THAN SCRATCH THE SURFACE

*Lanciano Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys 93*

**Accurate target definition: “ if the target is not properly defined, ..tumor control is impossible**

**Definition of the target with CT or MRI is crucial**

**The simplicity and accuracy of parallel opposed photon field for most nodal depths make this technique most appealing for a cooperative trial...**



**Inguinofemoral radiation of N0.N1 vulvar cancer may be equivalent to Lymphadenectomy if proper radiation technique is used**

*Petereit Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys 93*

**49 pts T1-4, N0-1**

**retrospective**

**25  
lymphadenectomy**

**23  
RT 50 Gy**

**Nodal control      100%      **P=0.14**      91%**

**3-year  
cause specific survival      96%      90%**



# Prophylactic inguinal-femoral irradiation as an alternative to primary lymphadenectomy in treatment of vulvar carcinoma

SORANA HALLAK<sup>1</sup>, LUZ LADI<sup>2</sup> and BENGTSORBE<sup>1</sup>

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ONCOLOGY 31: 1077-1085, 2007

pts stage

297 T1-4

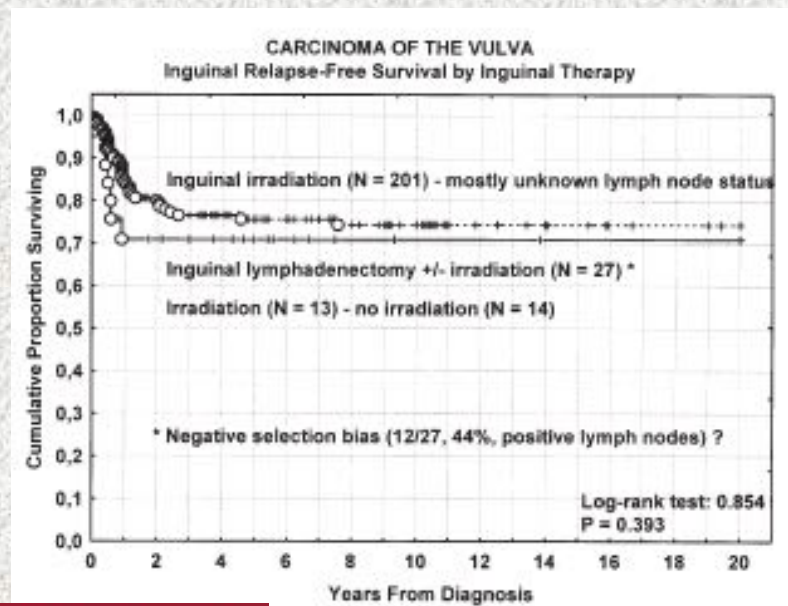
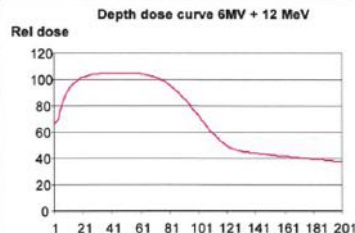
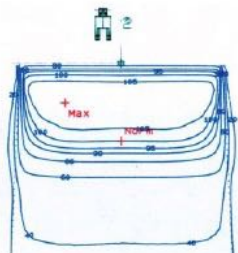
RT 267  
S 27

RELAPSE FREE SURVIVAL

75%  
75%

PHOTON/  
ELECTRON  
50:50

Type of radiotherapy		
Adjuvant	186	63.3
Curative	28	9.5
Palliative	16	5.4
None	64	21.8
Target		
Inguinal lymph nodes	199	67.7
Vulva	23	7.8
Pelvis	8	2.7
None	64	21.8
Schedule		
2 x 2.64 Gy x 9 <sup>a</sup>	96	41.7
1 x 3.0 Gy x 18	46	20.0
1 x 2.0 Gy x 25	88	38.3



Daly 1974	Non-randomised study. Insufficient numbers.
Edsmyr 1961	Non-randomised study. Incidence of groin recurrences cannot be analysed separately
Hallak S 2007	Retrospective observational study. 294 cases of vulvar cancer were given post-operative radiotherapy after standard surgery which included inguinal lymphadenectomy in only 27 cases. 110 patients had Stage I disease. Two separate inguinal fields were irradiated with combined photon (6MeV) and electron (12 MeV) beams. Dos 47.5 Gy to 54 Gy; depth: relative depth dose > 100 from 2 till 7 cm. Three different fraction schedules were used. Follow-up was for a minimum of 10 years. Overall, 127 recurrences were recorded (43%) - 15/110 patients with Stage I disease (14%). The 5-year survival of the Stage I group was 69% and relapse free survival (RFS) was 60%. RFS rate was not associated with the type of surgery performed (total/partial vulvectomy or local tumour excision) The inguinal relapse free rate was 75% both for patients treated with adjuvant inguinal irradiation without lymphadenectomy (n=201) and patients treated with primary lymphadenectomy + inguinal irradiation (n=27). It was not possible to identify the inguinal relapse free rate for the stage I/II patients who had radiotherapy as sole treatment for the groins separately. Post-op complications were significantly more frequent in the subgroup
Leiserowitz 1997	Non-randomised study. Incidence of groin recurrences cannot be analysed separately
Manavi 1997	Case-control study of T1 N0-1 M0 patients. Control - 'wait and see'. 65 patients received radiotherapy to inguino-femoral nodes, 70 received no treatment to nodes. 5 patients had non-squamous cell carcinoma. No significant difference in relapse rates and survival. Radiotherapy dose: 60Gy; type: telecobalt; depth: 45 Gy at 5cm. Groin recurrence - 3/65 (4.6%) versus 7/70 (10%). "Low" morbidity: 5/65 (vaginal stenosis: 2, inguinal pain, recto-vaginal fistula, infection) versus 2/70 (vaginal stenosis). Survival overall - 91% (? disease specific; ? disease free)
Perez 1998	Observational study of 87 women with T1-2 N0-1 M0 vulvar cancer (7 with non-squamous cell carcinoma): 19/87 women received radiotherapy to inguino-femoral lymph nodes. Dose: 50-70Gy; type: photons (electron boost); depth: at 4cm. Groin recurrence occurred in 2/19 cases (10.5%). No survival data
Peterit 1993	Non-randomised study. Incidence of groin recurrences cannot be analysed separately in relation to early stage disease
Pirtoli 1982	Non-mentioned.

# Bias statistici

Primary groin irradiation versus primary groin surgery for early vulvar cancer (Review)

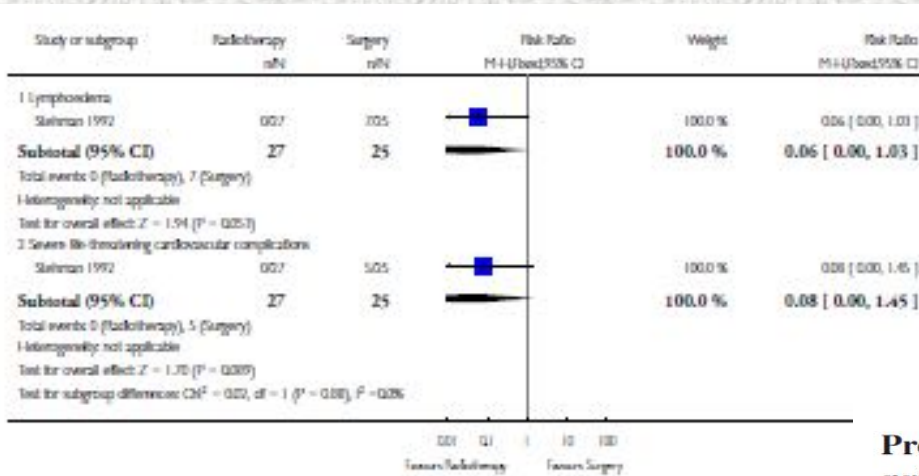
van de Velden J, Fou G, Lawrie TA

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# Groin dissection versus groin radiation in carcinoma of the vulva: a Gynecologic Oncology Group Study.

Stehman FB *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 1992;

**morbidity**



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ONCOLOGY 31: 1077-1085, 2007

## Prophylactic inguinal-femoral irradiation as an alternative to primary lymphadenectomy in treatment of vulvar carcinoma

SORANA HALLAK<sup>1</sup>, LUZ LADI<sup>2</sup> and BENGT SORBE<sup>1</sup>

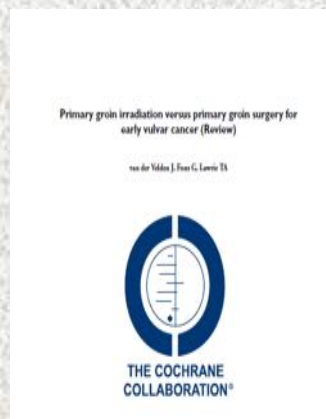
<sup>1</sup>Department of Gynecological Oncology, and <sup>2</sup>Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Örebro University Hospital, S-701 85 Örebro, Sweden

Received January 8, 2007; Accepted June 7, 2007

therapy.<sup>a</sup>

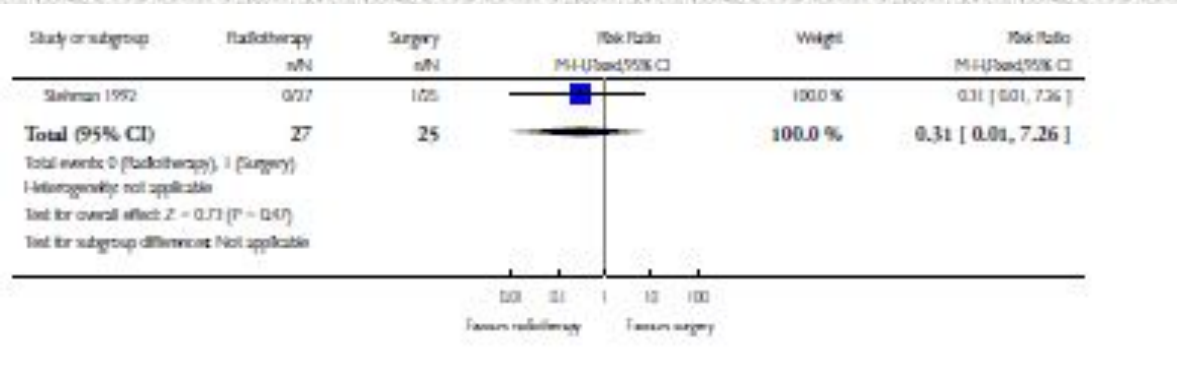
Factor	Odds ratio	95% C.I.	P-value
Radiotherapy (D/F)	1.00	0.50-2.00	0.990
Lymphadenectomy	4.63	1.11-19.21	0.033

<sup>a</sup>Logistic regression analysis. D/F, dose per fraction (2.0 Gy versus 3.0 or 2.64 Gy).

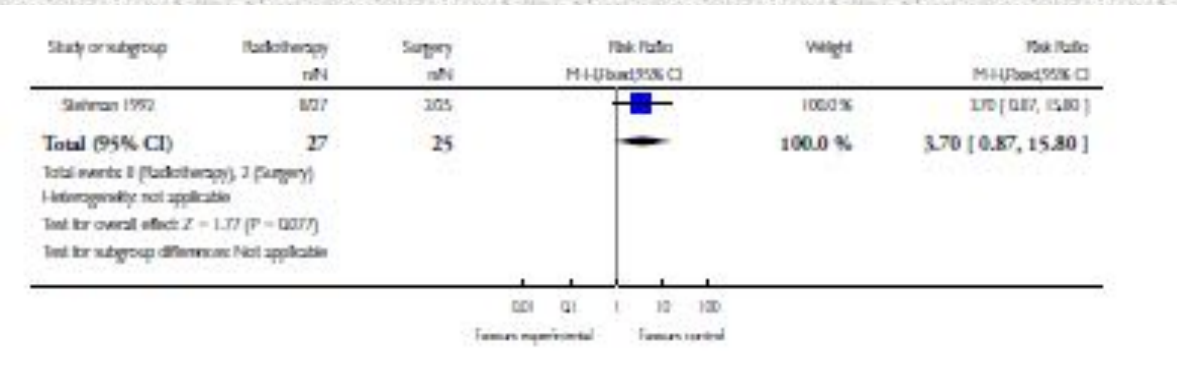


# Groin dissection versus groin radiation in carcinoma of the vulva: a Gynecologic Oncology Group Study.

*Stehman FB Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys 1992;*



**Mortality related to treatment**



**Mortality disease specific**



**until a clear equivalence between groin  
Irradiation and dissection is demonstrated in a well-  
designed prospective randomized trial with QA of  
radiotherapy,  
lymphadenectomy still represents the standard  
approach to the groin**

# sentinel node' studies

**Toxicity of surgery**



Author	Year	Number of patients	Blue dye (D)	Tracer (T)	Preoperative lymphoscintigraphy	Success rate (%)	False negative
Levenback et al. [49]	1995	21	Y	N	N	66	0
Decesare et al. [50]	1997	10	N	Y	N	100	0
De Cicco et al. [51]	1997	15	N	Y	Y	100	0
de Hullu et al. [52]	1998	10	Y	Y	Y	100	0
Antink et al. [53]	1999	51	Y	N	/	56	2
Tavares et al. [54]	2001					100	0
Molpus et al. [55]	2001					100	0
Makar et al. [56]	2001					100	0
De Cicco et al. [57]	2000					100	0
de Hullu et al. [58]	2000					100	0
Levenback et al. [59]	2001					88	0
Slutz et al. [60]	2002					100	0
Moore et al. [61]	2003					100/61 <sup>b</sup>	0
Puig-Tintoré et al. [62]	2003					96	0
Louis-Sylvestre et al. [63]	2005		Y	N	Y	100	0
Menisio et al. [64]	2007	20	Y <sup>a</sup>	Y	Y	100	1
Rob et al. [65]	2007	59	Y <sup>a</sup>	Y	Y	100 (D/T) <sup>a</sup>	0 (D/T)
						68.8 (D)	1 (D)
Hauspy et al. [66]	2007	42	Y <sup>b</sup>	Y	N	95	0
Mason et al. [67]	2008	36	Y	Y		100	
Van der Zee et al. [68]	2008		Y	Y			
Levenback et al. [69]	2009		Y	Y			
Lindell et al. [70]	2010						

**Negative SN**  
**T < 4 cm**  
**Groin surgery omitted**  
**Relapse 6/259 (2.3%)**  
**3-trs survival 97%**

**Sensitivity 89.9%**  
**Negative predictive value 95.6%**  
**False-negative predictive value 4.4%**



# sentinel node studies

Author	Year	Number of patients	Blue dye (D)	Tracer (T)	Preoperative lymphoscintigraphy	Success rate (%)	False negative
Levenback et al. [49]	1995	21	Y	N	N	66	0
Decossare et al. [50]	1997	10	N	Y	N	100	0

## Groningen International Study on Sentinel nodes in Vulvar cancer (GROINSS-V II)

Observational study

Sentinel node negative: no lymphadenectomy

Sentinel node positive: radiotherapy

Rob et al. [65]	2007	59	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y	Y	100 (D/T) <sup>2</sup> 68.8 (D)	0 (D/T) 1 (D)
Hauspy et al. [66]	2007	42	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y	N	95	0
Moore et al. [67]	2008	36	Y	Y		100	
Van der Zee et al. [68]	2008	403 <sup>3</sup>	Y	Y			
Levenback et al. [69]	2009	515	Y	Y	Y <sup>4</sup>	96.2 (D/T) 78.8 (D)	
Lindell et al. [70]	2010	77	Y	Y	Y	98 (D/T) <sup>5</sup> 94 (D)	2

To decrease the incidence of locoregional failures after wide local excision in patients with stage I and II tumors

To serve as an alternative to inguinal or pelvic lymph node dissection in patients with clinically negative nodes

## The role of Radiation therapy

To treat patients before surgery for locally extensive tumors that may be considered inoperable initially

To reduce the incidence of postsurgical failure in patients with stage III and IV disease;



## **Surgical–pathologic factors associated with a higher risk of local recurrence:**

**deep invasion (>5mm) and lymphovascular space invasion**

Boyce J, *Gynecol Oncol* 1985;20:364,  
Binder SW, *Gynecol Oncol* 1990;37:9.

**Positive margins**

*Heaps JM et al Obstet Gynecol* 1990;38:309–314

**Close surgical margin**

Heaps JM, *Fu Gynecol Oncol* 1990;38:309.  
Chan JK, *Gynecol Oncol* 2007;104:636–41.



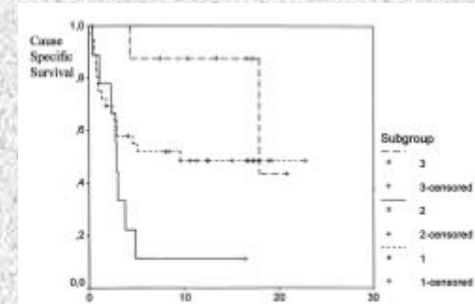
**LONG-TERM IMPACT OF POSTOPERATIVE RADIOTHERAPY IN CARCINOMA OF THE VULVA FIGO I/II**

MARTIN BUSCH, PD DR. MED.,\* BIRGIT WAGENER,<sup>†</sup> MOSHE SCHAFER, DR. MED.,\* AND ECKHART DÜHMKE, PROF. DR. MED.\*

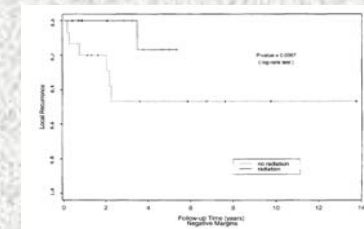
*Int. J. Radiation Oncology Biol. Phys., Vol. 48, No. 1, pp. 213-218, 2000*

**10 pts adjuvant 60 Gy**  
**9 pts adjuvant 40 Gy**  
**51pts observation**

**T1-2 No**

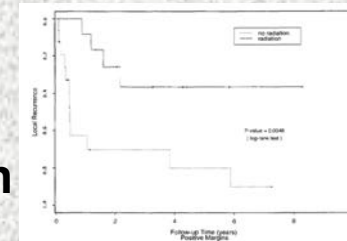


**No prospective trial has successfully tested this hypothesis**



**31 pts adjuvant RT local recurrence 16%**  
**31 pts observation local recurrence 58%**

**Positive margin**



To decrease the incidence of locoregional failures after wide local excision in patients with stage I and II tumors

To serve as an alternative to inguinal or pelvic lymph node dissection in patients with clinically negative nodes

## The role of Radiation therapy

To treat patients before surgery for locally extensive tumors that may be considered inoperable initially

To reduce the incidence of postsurgical failure in patients with stage III and IV disease;



# Management of pelvic lymph nodes

Pelvic lymphadenectomy revealed positive pelvic nodes in approximately 5% of all the cases, 15–20% of the patients with positive groin nodes and nearly 0% of those with negative groin nodes

**Since the clinical benefit of pelvic lymphadenectomy is limited, this procedure is rarely carried out today**

Ro  
free by pelvic lymphadenectomy

*Franklin III EW, Obstet Gynecol 1971; Podratz KC, Am J Obstet Gynecol 1982;*

Therefore, the potential survival benefit of pelvic lymphadenectomy appears to be **1%** (20% of 5% who have pelvic nodal disease) for all patients or **4%** (20% of 20% who have pelvic nodal disease) for those with positive groin nodes

*Thomas GM, Gynecol Oncol 1991;*



# Management of pelvic lymph nodes

**Radiation therapy versus pelvic node resection for carcinoma of the vulva with positive groin nodes.**

*Homesley HD, Obstet Gynecol 1986;68:733*

114 pts

Radical vulvectomy and bilateral inguinal femoral lymphadenectomy

Groin pN+

**Radiotherapy**  
**Groin and pelvic nodes**  
**45-50 Gy**

**Pelvic lymph node**  
**dissection**

2-yrs OS 68%      P=0.03

2-yrs OS 54%

Clinically pos nodes      2-yrs OS 59%

2-yrs OS 31%

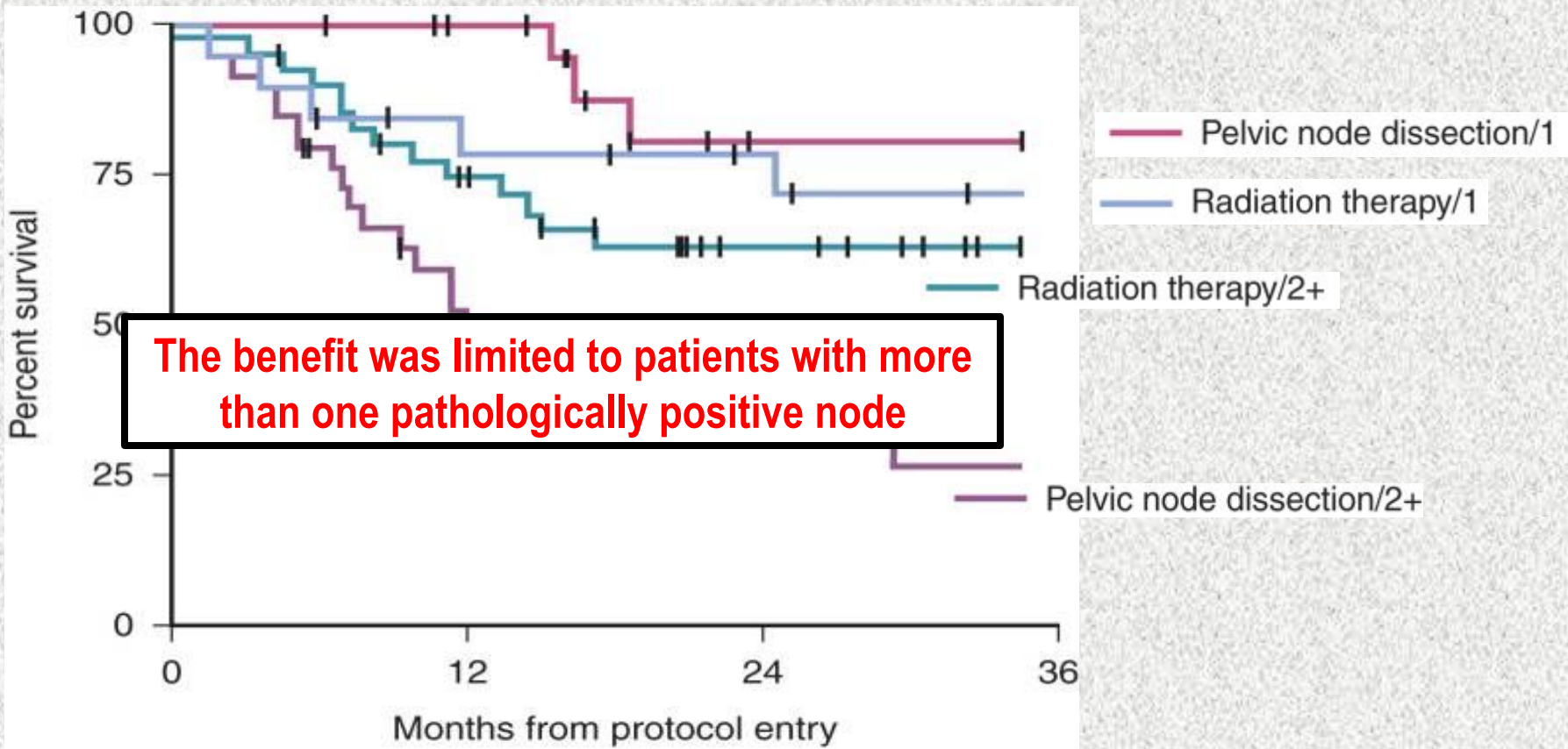
≥2 pos nodes      2-yrs OS 63%

2-yrs OS 37%



**Radiation therapy versus pelvic node resection for carcinoma of the vulva with positive groin nodes.**

*Homesley HD, Obstet Gynecol 1986;68:733*





**Assessment of current International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics staging of vulvar carcinoma relative to prognostic factors for survival (a Gynecologic Oncology Group study).**  
*Am J Obstet Gynecol 1991;164(4):997–1004.*

	5-year survival
negative nodes	90.9%,
1–2 positive nodes	75.2%
3–4 positive nodes	36.1%,
5–6 positive nodes	24.0%
7 or more positive nodes	0%

**Prognostic value of pathological patterns of lymph node positivity in squamous cell carcinoma of the vulva stage III and IVA FIGO.**  
*Orioni M, Gynecol Oncol 1992;45(3):313–6.*

	5-year survivals
nodal metastases less than 5 mm	90.0%,
5–15 mm	41.6%
>15 mm	20.6%

extracapsular spread had a poor prognosis (25%) compared with patients with disease confined to the node (85.7%) ; P=0.001).



# Extracapsular Growth of Lymph Node Metastases in Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Vulva

The Impact on Recurrence and Survival

Jacobus van der Velden, M.D.,\* Arnold C. M. van Lindert, Ph.D.,†  
 Frits B. Lammes, Ph.D.,\* Fiebo J. W. ten Kate, Ph.D.,‡ Daisy M. D. S. Sie-Go, Ph.D.,§  
 Hans Oosting, Ph.D.,|| and A. Peter M. Heintz, Ph.D.†

CANCER June 15, 1995, Volume 75, No. 12

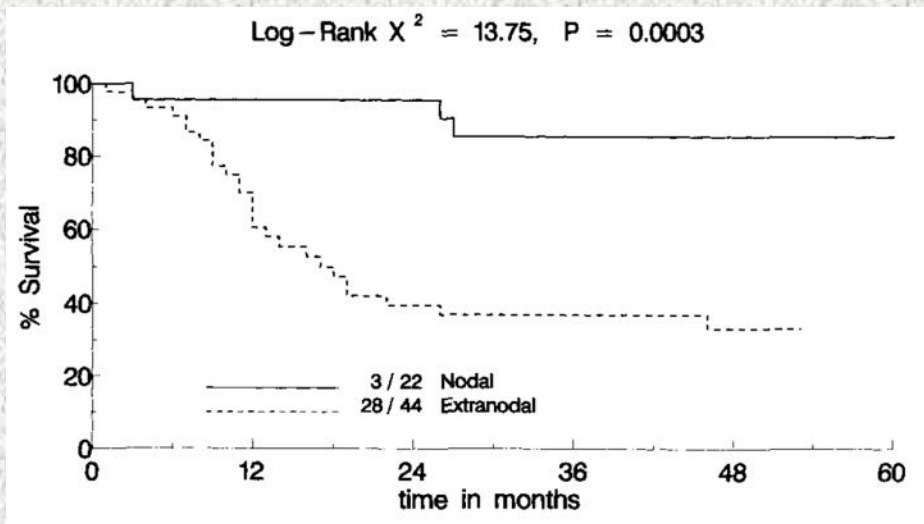


Table 2. Effect on Survival of Various Clinicopathologic Variables Additional to Extranodal Spread

Variable	Chi-square	P value
Extranodal spread	16.22	0.00
Size	2.00	0.16
No. of nodes	1.39	0.24
FIGO stage	0.54	0.46
Metastasis size	0.23	0.63
Nodal replacement	0.06	0.80
Laterality	0.03	0.87

FIGO: International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics.



Gynecologic Oncology 114 (2009) 343–345

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journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/ygyno](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ygyno)



Adjuvant radiotherapy in patients with vulvar cancer and **one intra capsular lymph node metastasis is not beneficial**

G. Fons <sup>a,\*</sup>, S.M.A. Groenen <sup>b</sup>, M.H.M. Oonk <sup>c</sup>, A.C. Ansink <sup>c</sup>, A.G.J. van der Zee <sup>c</sup>, M.P.M. Burger <sup>a</sup>, L.J.A. Stalpers <sup>d</sup>, J. van der Velden <sup>a</sup>

Number of recurrences per site of recurrence.

Site of recurrence	Intra capsular metastasis	
	Without RT <sup>a</sup>	With RT
None	30 (68) <sup>b</sup>	19 (62)
Local (vulva)	7 (16)	7 (23)
Groin	1 (2)	0 (0)
Pelvis	1 (2)	2 (6)
Distant	2 (5)	2 (6)
Unknown	3 (7)	1 (3)
Total	44 (100)	31 (100)

<sup>a</sup> Radiotherapy.

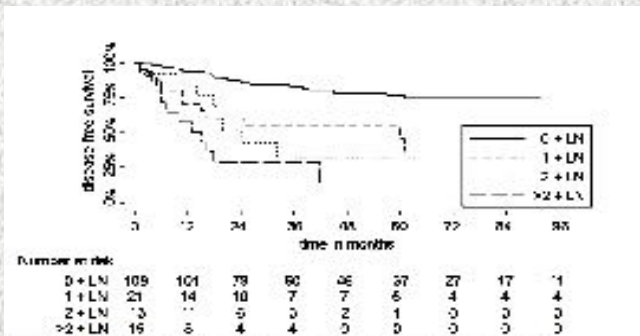
<sup>b</sup> Percentage.



## Prognostic Role of Lymph Node Metastases in Vulvar Cancer and Implications for Adjuvant Treatment

Linn Woelber, MD,\* Christine Eulenburg, PhD,† Matthias Choschzick, MD,‡ Andreas Kruell, MD,§  
Cordula Petersen, MD,§ Friederike Giesecking, MD,\* Fritz Jaenicke, MD,\* and Sven Mahner, MD\*

International Journal of Gynecological Cancer • Volume 22, Number 3, March 2012



**FIGURE 2.** Impact of the number of positive lymph nodes on disease-free survival ( $n = 157$ ,  $P < 0.001$  node positive vs. node negative;  $P = 0.080$   $> 2$  vs. 1 positive node;  $P = 0.189$  2 vs. 1 positive node).

**TABLE 3.** Multivariate analysis of the prognostic impact of the number of positive lymph nodes as a continuous variable on disease recurrence under consideration of the interaction between number of positive nodes and adjuvant radiotherapy ( $n = 157$ )

	<i>P</i>	HR	95% CI
No. affected nodes (no adjuvant radiotherapy groins/pelvis)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	1.752	1.380 2.225
No. affected nodes (adjuvant radiotherapy groins/pelvis)	0.828	0.972	0.749 1.261
Interaction between no. positive nodes and adjuvant radiotherapy	<b>0.001</b>	0.555	0.394 0.781
pT2 vs pT 1a/b	0.721	1.143	0.549 2.383
pT3/4 vs pT 1a/b	0.336	1.634	0.601 4.446
G2 vs G1	0.533	0.731	0.272 1.961
G3 vs G1	0.858	1.098	0.395 3.047
Age per year	<b>0.003</b>	1.036	1.012 1.061
Depth of invasion per mm	0.333	1.026	0.974 1.080

Bold values indicate significant results.  
CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratio.

**Conclusions:** The negative impact of lymph node metastases is already evident in patients with only 1 affected lymph node. In patients receiving adjuvant radiotherapy, the negative effect of additional lymph node metastases is reduced; adjuvant treatment might therefore be beneficial in patients with only 1 positive node.



➔  **Size of sentinel-node metastasis and chances of non-sentinel-node involvement and survival in early stage vulvar cancer: results from GROINSS-V, a multicentre observational study**

*Maaïke H Oank, Bettien M van Hiel, Harry Hollema, Joanne A de Hullu, Anco C Ansink, Ignace Vergote, René H Verheijen, Angela Maggioni, Katja N Gaarenstroom, Peter J Baldwin, Eleonora B van Dorst, Jacobus van der Velden, Ralph H Hermans, Hans W van der Putten, Pierre Drouin, Ingo B Runnebaum, Wim J Sluiter, Ate G van der Zee*

**Lancet Oncology 2010;11:646**

**Our data show that the risk of non-sentinel node metastases increases with size of sentinel-node metastasis. No size cutoff seems to exist below which chances of non-sentinel-node metastases are close to zero.**

**Therefore all patients with sentinel-node metastases should have additional groin treatment**



To decrease the incidence of locoregional failures after wide local excision in patients with stage I and II tumors

To serve as an alternative to inguinal or pelvic lymph node dissection in patients with clinically negative nodes

## The role of Radiation therapy

To treat patients before surgery for locally extensive tumors that may be considered inoperable initially

To reduce the incidence of postsurgical failure in patients with stage III and IV disease;





**Cervical  
cancer**

**1990**

**Anal  
cancer**

**1974**

**VULVAR CANCER  
1987**

**Combined therapy as an alternative to exenteration for locally advanced vulvovaginal cancer. II. Results, complications, and dosimetric and surgical considerations.**

*A. Boronow RC, J Clin Oncol 1987;10:171-81.*

**37 pts**

**brachytherapy ± external beam RT**

**local control 86%**

**No patients required a pelvic exenteration**



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# Radiochemotherapy

## Why?

Women undergoing exenterative procedures have higher surgical complications rates, including a mortality rate of 2% to 10%

Such radical surgery is also inappropriate for young women as it causes severe psychosessual problem

**To avoid exenterative procedures**

Such radical surgery is also inappropriate for young women as it causes severe psychosessual problem

erly due

Andersen 1999, Moore 1999, Maggioni 2009

Such radical surgery is also inappropriate for young women as it causes severe psychosessual problem

Gadducci 2006







## CHEMORADIATION AS PRIMARY OR ADJUVANT TREATMENT FOR LOCALLY ADVANCED CARCINOMA OF THE VULVA

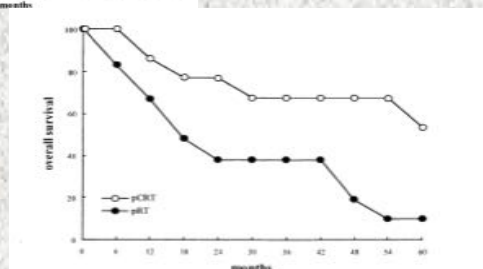
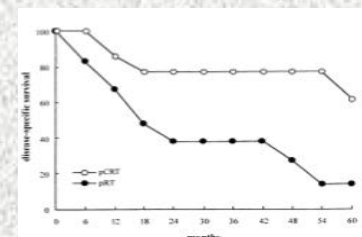
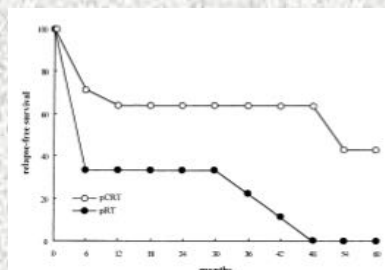
STEPHANIE C. HAN, M.D.,\* DAVID H. KIM, M.D.,\* SUSAN A. HIGGINS, M.D.,\*  
MARIA-LUISA CARCANGIU, M.D.,<sup>‡</sup> AND BARRY M. KACINSKI, M.D., Ph.D.\*<sup>†</sup>

Int. J. Radiation Oncology Biol. Phys., Vol. 47, No. 5, pp. 1235-1244, 2000

Table 1. Clinical features of patients treated with primary chemoradiation and doses of radiation therapy

Patient	Age (years)	Clinical stage	EBRT dose (Gy)
<b>Primary chemoradiation</b>			
1	65	T3N0	48
2	73	T3N1	57
3	73	T3N0	54
4	52	T3N0	62
5	54	T3N0	52
6	76	T4N1	62
7	64	T3N0	54
8	49	T3N1	40
9	81	T3N2	40
10	58	T3N0	45
<b>Chemoradiation for recurrent disease</b>			
11	79	T2N0	44
12	66	T1N0	45
13	69	T1N0	54
14	67	T2N1	45

EBRT = external beam radiation therapy.



**Conclusion:** Concurrent radiation therapy and chemotherapy decreases local relapse rate, improves disease-specific and overall survival over RT alone as primary treatment for locally advanced vulvar cancer. © 2000



# WHICH CHEMOTHERAPY SCHEDULE?



# bleomycin

**Irradiation and bleomycin in the treatment of inoperable vulval carcinoma.**

*Iversen T Acta Obstet Gynecol Scand 1982*

**Combined bleomycin and irradiation in preoperative treatment of advanced Squamous cell carcinoma of the vulva.**

*Scheistroen M Acta Oncol 1993*

**Worse outcome  
Lung toxicity**



## 5-FU with or without MMC

authors	pts	chemotherapy	Radiation dose	Response to chemoradiation
Levin <i>Gyn Oncol 1986</i>	6	5-FU+MMC	20-25 Gy	OR= 6 (100%) Surgery 4pts
Thomas <i>Gyn Oncol 1989</i>	24	5-Fu±MMC	45-51Gy	CR=14 (58.3%) Surgery 5 pts
Sebag-Montefiore <i>Int J Gyn C 1994</i>	32	5-FU+MMC	45-50 Gy	CR=15 (46%) OR=26 (81.2%)
Wahlen <i>Cancer 1995</i>	19	5-FU+MMC	45-50 Gy	CR=10 (53%), OR=17 (89%)
Lupi <i>Cancer 1996</i>	31	5-FU+MMC	54 Gy	OR 29 (93%)
Landoni <i>Gyn Oncol 1996</i>	58	5-FU+MMC	54GY	pCR=13 (31%)

# 5-FU with or without MMC

authors	pts	CHT	Radiation dose	Response to chemoradiation
Levin	6 primary	5-FU+MMC	20-25 Gy	OR= 6 (100%) Surgery 4pts
Thomas	9 primary 15 recurrence	5-FU±MMC	45-51Gy	CR=14 (58.3%) Surgery 5 pts
Sebag-montefiore	32 primary	5-FU+MMC	45-50 Gy	CR=15 (46%) OR=26 (81.2%)
Wahlen	19 primary	5-FU+MMC	45-50 Gy	CR=10 (53%), OR=17 (89%)
Lupi	24 primary 7 recurrent	5-FU+MMC	54 Gy	OR 29 (93%)
Landoni	41 primary 17 recurrent	5-FU+MMC	54GY	pCR=13 (31%)

## 5-FU with or without MMC

authors	pts	chemotherapy	
Levin	6	<b>5-FU+MMC</b>	5-FU 1000 mg/m <sup>2</sup> /day ic 1-4, MMC 10 mg/m <sup>2</sup> d1
Thomas	24	<b>5-fu±MMC</b>	5-FU 1000 mg/m <sup>2</sup> /day ic 1-4 ± MMC 6 mg/m <sup>2</sup> d1
Sebag-Montefiore	32	<b>5-FU+MMC</b>	5-FU 750-1000 mg/m <sup>2</sup> /day ic 1-5, MMC 10-15 mg/m <sup>2</sup> d1
Wahlen	19	<b>5-FU+MMC</b>	5-FU 1000 mg/m <sup>2</sup> /day ic 1-4, MMC 10 mg/m <sup>2</sup> d1
Lupi	31	<b>5-FU+MMC</b>	5-FU 750 mg/m <sup>2</sup> /day ic 1-5, MMC 15 mg/m <sup>2</sup> d1
Landoni	58	<b>5-FU+MMC</b>	5-FU 750 mg/m <sup>2</sup> /day ic 1-5, MMC 15 mg/m <sup>2</sup> d1

# 5-FU with or without MMC

authors	pts	CHT	Radiation dose	
Levin	6	5-FU+MMC	20-25 Gy	2.0-2.5 Gy x 10
Thomas	24	5-fu±MMC	45-51Gy	45 Gy to the pelvis 51 to the vulva with e-
Sebag-Montefiore	32	5-FU+MMC	45-50 Gy	25 Gy SPLIT 1 mth 25 Gy 45 Gy continuous
Wahlen	19	5-FU+MMC	45-50 Gy	45-50 Gy continuous
Lupi	31	5-FU+MMC	54 Gy	36 Gy SPLIT 2 wks 18 Gy to the vulva
Landoni	58	5-FU+MMC	54GY	36 Gy SPLIT 2 wks 18 Gy to the vulva

# 5-FU with or without MMC

authors	pts	chemotherapy	Radiation dose	Response to chemoradiation
Levin	6	5-FU+MMC	20-25 Gy	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CR</b> <b>31%-100%</b></p>
Thomas	24	5-fu±MMC	45-51Gy	
Sebag-Montefiore	32	5-FU+MMC	45-50 Gy	
Wahlen	19	5-FU+MMC	45-50 Gy	
Lupi	31	5-FU+MMC	54 Gy	
Landoni	58	5-FU+MMC	54Gy	



## 5-FU with or without CDDP

authors	pts	chemotherapy	Radiation dose	Response to chemoradiation
<b>Berek</b> <i>Gyn Oncol 1991</i>	12	CDDP+5-FU	44-54	CR 8 (66.7%), OR=11 (91.7%)
<b>Russell</b> <i>Gyn Oncol 1992</i>	23	CDDP+5-FU	36-54	CR 20 (80%)
<b>Eifel</b> <i>Gyn Oncol 1995</i>	12	CDDP+5-FU	40-50	PCR=4 (33.3%), OR=11(91.7%)
<b>Cunningham</b> <i>Gyn Oncol 1997</i>	14	CDDP+5-FU	50-65	CR=9 (64.3%), OR 13 (92.8%)
<b>Moore</b> <i>Int J Oncol Biol Phi 98</i>	71	CDDP+5-FU	47.6	CR=33 (46.5%)
<b>Gerszten</b> <i>Gyn Oncol 2005</i>	18	CDDP+5-FU	44.6	CR= 13 (72.2%), OR=18 (100%)





## 5-FU with or without CDDP

authors	pts	CHT	Radiation dose	Response to chemoradiation
Berek	12 primary	CDDP+5-FU	44-54	CR 8 (66.7%), OR=11 (91.7%)
Russell	18 primary 7 recurrence	CDDP+5-FU	36-54	CR 20 (80%)
Eifel	12 primary	CDDP+5-FU	40-50	PCR=4 ( 33.3%), OR=11(91.7%)
Cunningham	14 primary	CDDP+5-FU	50-65	CR=9 (64.3%), OR 13 (92.8%)
Moore	71 primary	CDDP+5-FU	47.6	CR=33 (46.5%)
Gerszten	18 primary	CDDP+5-FU	44.6	CR= 13 (72.2%), OR=18 (100%)

## 5-FU with or without CDDP

authors	pts	chemotherapy	
Berek	12	CDDP+5-FU	5-FU 1000 mg/m <sup>2</sup> /day ic 1-4 CDDP 50-100 mg/m <sup>2</sup> /day 1-2,
Russell	23	CDDP+5-FU	5-FU 750-1000 mg/m <sup>2</sup> /day ic 1-4 CDDP 100 mg/m <sup>2</sup> /day 1
Eifel	12	CDDP+5-FU	5-FU 250 mg/m <sup>2</sup> /day ic 1-4, weekly CDDP 4 mg/m <sup>2</sup> /day 1-4, weekly
Cunningham	14	CDDP+5-FU	5-FU 1000 mg/m <sup>2</sup> /day ic 1-4 CDDP 50 mg/m <sup>2</sup> /day 1
Moore	71	CDDP+5-FU	5-FU 1000 mg/m <sup>2</sup> /day ic 1-4 CDDP 50 mg/m <sup>2</sup> /day 1
Gerszten	18	CDDP+5-FU	5-FU 1000 mg/m <sup>2</sup> /day ic 1-4 CDDP 50 mg/m <sup>2</sup> /day 1



# 5-FU with or without CDDP

authors	pts	chemotherapy	Radiation dose	
Berek	12	CDDP+5-FU	44-54	44-54 Gy continuous
Russell	23	CDDP+5-FU	36-54	36-54 Gy continuous
Eifel	12	CDDP+5-FU	40-50	40-50 Gy continuous
Cunningham	14	CDDP+5-FU	50-65	vulva 50 to 65 Gy pelvi of 45 to 50 Gy.
Moore	71	CDDP+5-FU	47.6	1.7 Gy BID to 4.760 SPLIT COURSE
Gerszten	18	CDDP+5-FU	44.6	1.6 Gy BID to 44.6 SPLIT COURSE

# 5-FU with or without CDDP

authors	pts	chemotherapy	Radiation dose	Response to chemoradiation
Berek	12	CDDP+5-FU	44-54	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CR</b> <b>33%-80%</b></p>
Russell	23	CDDP+5-FU	36-54	
Eifel	12	CDDP+5-FU	40-50	
Cunningham	14	CDDP+5-FU	50-65	
Moore	71	CDDP+5-FU	47.6	
Gerszten	18	CDDP+5-FU	44.6	

## Outcomes after radiation therapy with concurrent weekly platinum-based chemotherapy or every-3-4-week 5-fluorouracil-containing regimens for squamous cell carcinoma of the vulva

Raymond H. Mak<sup>a</sup>, Lia M. Halasz<sup>a</sup>, Cynthia K. Tanaka<sup>b</sup>, Marek Ancukiewicz<sup>c</sup>, Delray J. Schultz<sup>d</sup>, Anthony H. Russell<sup>c</sup>, Akila N. Viswanathan<sup>b,\*</sup>

Gynecologic Oncology 120 (2011) 101–107

	All patients (n=44)	Every-3-4-week 5-FU-based chemotherapy (n=28)	Weekly platinum-based chemotherapy (n=16)	p-Value
Median (range) follow-up (months)	31.5 (3.8-165.7)	25.9 (3.8-165.7)	54.6 (7.6-130.1)	p=0.04
Actuarial 2-year OS	71.3%	70.0%	74.5%	p=0.65
Actuarial 2-year DFS	58.1%	56.0%	61.9%	p=0.85
Actuarial 2-year FFR	62.6%	58.7%	68.9%	p=0.65
Actuarial 2-year LRR	32.2%	32.9%	31.3%	p=0.93
Actuarial 2-year DM	8.6%	10.6%	6.3%	p=0.81
pCR <sup>e</sup>	53.8% (14/26)	50.0% (9/18)	62.5% (5/8)	p=0.68
Clinical complete response	58.8% (20/34)	58.3% (14/24)	60.0% (6/10)	p=1.0

	<b>Weekly CDDP</b>	<b>5F-U</b>	
<b>acute skin toxicity G3</b>	<b>62.5%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>p=0.26</b>
<b>acute non-skin toxicities G4</b> Dehydration, diarrhea, mucositis	<b>0</b>	<b>11.5%</b>	<b>p=0.07</b>
<b>treatment breaks</b> Median day	<b>0.5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>p=0.01</b>



# Concurrent radiochemotherapy

Author	pts	CHT	RT (Gy)	Local disease persistence or recurrence after RTCHT ± surgery	Follow-up months
Levin, 86	6	5-FU+MMC	18-60	1 (17%)	1-25
Evans,88	4	5-FU+MMC	25.7	2 (50%)	20-29
Thomas,89	24	5-FU± MMC	44-60	9 (37%)	5-45
Whalen, 95	19	5-FU+MMC	45-50	1 (5%)	3-70

Local disease persistence  
or recurrence after  
chemoRT ± surgery  
**23%** (0%-54%)

Eifel, 95	12	5-FU+CDDP	40-50	5 (42%)	17-30
Cunningham, 97	14	5-FU+CDDP	45-50	4 (29%)	7-80
Gerszten, 2005	18	5-FU+CDDP	44.6	3 (17%)	1-55

## Impressive response and local control

### Patterns of Care for Radiotherapy in Vulvar Cancer: A Gynecologic Cancer Intergroup Study

David K. Gaffney, MD,\* Andreas Du Bois, MD,† Kailash Narayan, MD,‡ Nick Reed, MD,§  
Takafumi Toita, MD,|| Sandro Pignata, MD,¶ Peter Blake, MD,# Lorraine Portelance, MD,\*\*  
Azmat Sadoyze, MD,†† Richard Potter, MD,‡‡ Alessandro Colombo, MD,§§ Marcus Randall, MD,||||  
Mansoor R. Mirza, MD,¶¶ and Edward L. Trimble, MD###

(*Int J Gynecol Cancer* 2009;19: 163–167)

**12 cooperative groups: 2/3 neoadjuvant Radiochemotherapy  
unresectable or >III stage  
48.2±5 Gy  
different indications, RT fields, CHT**







THE COCHRANE  
COLLABORATION®

2011, Issue 4

## Chemoradiation for advanced primary vulval cancer (Review)

### Background

Vulval cancer is a rare gynaecological cancer. There is no standard approach for treating locally advanced primary vulval cancer (FIGO stage III and IV). Combined treatment modalities have been developed using radiotherapy, chemotherapy and surgery. The advantages and disadvantages of such treatment is not well evaluated.

### Objectives

To evaluate the effectiveness and safety of neoadjuvant and primary chemoradiation for women with locally advanced primary vulval cancer compared to other primary modalities of treatment such as primary surgery or primary radiation.



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## Primary chemoradiation VS primary surgery

Landrum, 2008  
Mulayim, 2004  
retrospective



no statistically significant  
difference in survival  
HR= 1.09, 95% CI 0.37- 3.17

## Neoadjuvant chemoradiation VS primary surgery

Maneo, 2003  
RCT



did not appear to offer longer  
survival compared to primary  
surgery in advanced vulval  
tumours  
RR = 1.29, 95%CI 0.87- 1.91



**Neoadjuvant chemoradiation for advanced primary vulvar cancer.  
Van Doorn HC,  
Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2006**

- 1) Patients with an inoperable primary tumor or lymph nodes benefit from chemoradiation if an operation of lesser scope can ultimately be performed**
- 2) Neoadjuvant therapy is not justified in patients with tumors that can be adequately treated with radical vulvectomy and bilateral groin node dissection**



# Neoadjuvant RTCHT

authors	pts	CHT	Radiation dose	Response to RTCHT	Planned surgery (Response)
---------	-----	-----	-------------------	-------------------------	----------------------------------

**Response rate after RTCHT ranged from 46% to 91%**

**Dose of radiation are usually ~ 50 Gy**

**Surgery not actually delivered to all cCR patients**

**pCR rate ~ 30%**

# Definitive RTCHT

authors	pts	CHT	Radiation dose	Response to RTCHT	Salvage surgery
---------	-----	-----	-------------------	----------------------	--------------------

**Overall response rate ranged 81%-100%**

**Dose of radiation are usually about 50 Gy but better OS with dose > 50 Gy**

**Surgery is kept as a reserve treatment for the salvage of the residual disease**

**PREOPERATIVE CHEMORADIATION FOR ADVANCED VULVAR CANCER:  
A PHASE II STUDY OF THE GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY GROUP**

**GOG 101**

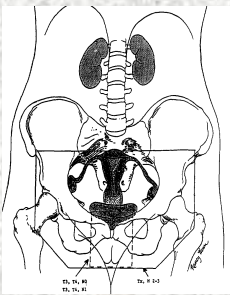
DAVID H. MOORE, M.D.,\* GILLIAN M. THOMAS, M.D.,† GUSTAVO S. MONTANA, M.D.,‡  
ANGELIKA SAXER, C.C.R.A.,§ DONALD G. GALLUP, M.D.,|| AND GEORGE OLT, M.D.¶

Int. J. Radiation Oncology Biol. Phys., Vol. 42, No. 1, pp. 79-85, 1998

**104 pts T3-4 N2-3  
8/89 to 2/94**

Treatment regimen	Day of treatment											
	1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12		
Radiation therapy*	XX	XX	XX	XX	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Cisplatin, 50 mg/m <sup>2</sup>	X											
5-FU, 1000 mg/m <sup>2</sup>	X	X	X	X								
1½ to 2½ weeks split course	29	30	31	32	33	36	37	38	39	40		
Radiation therapy*	XX	XX	XX	XX	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Cisplatin, 50 mg/m <sup>2</sup>	X											
5-FU, 1000 mg/m <sup>2</sup>	X	X	X	X								

5-FU = 5-fluorouracil.  
\*Radiation therapy delivered 170 cGy twice daily (fractions separated by 6 hours) during 5-FU infusion and 170 cGy once daily for remainder of treatment course. Each split course delivered 2380 cGy.



**47.6 Gy BID  
SPLIT COURSE**

Table 3. Acute adverse effects

Acute adverse effect	Grade				
	0	1	2	3	4
Hematologic	47	16	7	3	0
Emesis	44	13	16	0	0
Diarrhea	57	8	6	1	1
Other gastrointestinal	49	8	14	0	2
Urinary	54	12	6	1	0
Hepatic	71	1	1	0	0
Pulmonary	67	5	1	0	0
Infection	64	1	5	1	2
Neurologic	66	3	2	2	0
Cutaneous	10	8	16	19	20
Cardiovascular	69	0	1	2	1
Lymphatics	47	9	13	4	0
Fever	63	3	6	1	0
Wound breakdown	64	3	2	2	2

**PREOPERATIVE CHEMORADIATION FOR ADVANCED VULVAR CANCER:  
A PHASE II STUDY OF THE GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY GROUP**

DAVID H. MOORE, M.D.,\* GILLIAN M. THOMAS, M.D.,† GUSTAVO S. MONTANA, M.D.,‡  
 ANGELIKA SAXER, C.C.R.A.,§ DONALD G. GALLUP, M.D.,|| AND GEORGE OLT, M.D.¶

Table 4. Surgical management of primary tumor versus anticipated surgical management prior to chemoradiotherapy

Anticipated procedure	Actual procedure							
	Biopsy	Wide local excision	Vulva	Other	Vagina	Anterior exenteration	Posterior exenteration	None
Vagina	3	7 <sup>1</sup>	3	0	0	0	0	2 <sup>2,4</sup>
Urethra	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1 <sup>4</sup>
Bone	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Anterior exenteration	2 <sup>5</sup>	1	2	3 <sup>6,6,6</sup>	0	0	0	3 <sup>3,7,7</sup>
Posterior exenteration	2	12	15 <sup>8,9</sup>	1 <sup>1</sup>	1	0	1	1 <sup>2</sup>
Posterior exenteration + Urethra	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total exenteration	1	2	0	1 <sup>8</sup>	0	0	1	0

Among the 50 patients initially presenting with vulvar cancers requiring exenterative surgery, only one patient required exenterative surgery and two patients required colostomy to resect residual disease.

**at the time of planned surgery**  
**33/71 (46.5%): no visible vulval cancer**  
**38/71 (53.5%): gross residual cancer**  
**2/71 (2.8%) residual unresectable disease**

**PREOPERATIVE CHEMO-RADIATION FOR CARCINOMA OF THE VULVA  
WITH N2/N3 NODES: A GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY GROUP STUDY**

GUSTAVO S. MONTANA, M.D., F.A.C.R.,\* GILLIAN M. THOMAS, M.D.,† DAVID H. MOORE, M.D.,‡  
ANGELIKA SAXER, C.C.R.A.,§ CHARLES E. MANGAN, M.D.,|| SAMUEL S. LENTZ, M.D.,¶ AND  
HERVY E. AVERETTE, M.D.#

**GOG 101**

Int. J. Radiation Oncology Biol. Phys., Vol. 48, No. 4, pp. 1007–1013, 2000

**unresectable, N2/N3 groin lymph node**

Table 3. Protocol summary

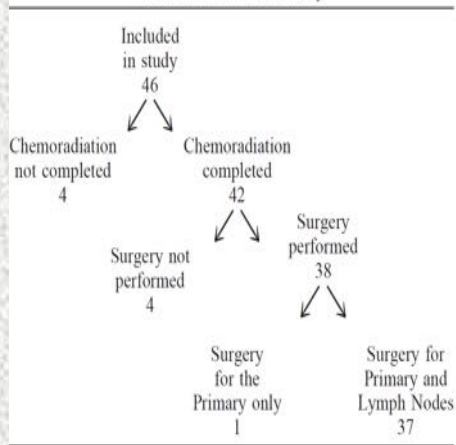


Table 5. Treatment outcome after surgery (n = 38)

Outcome	Number
No evidence of disease	12
Dead of intercurrent disease	5
Dead with complications	2
Recurrence, primary only	9
Recurrence, primary only and distant metastasis	1
Recurrence, inguinal nodes only	1
Distant metastasis only	8

**resectability rate, 95%,  
lymph nodes negative in 15/37 (41%)**





A phase II trial of radiation therapy and weekly cisplatin chemotherapy for the treatment of locally-advanced squamous cell carcinoma of the vulva: A gynecologic oncology group study

David H. Moore <sup>a,\*</sup>, Shamshad Ali <sup>b</sup>, Wui-jin Koh <sup>c</sup>, Helen Michael <sup>d</sup>, Mack N. Barnes <sup>e</sup>, Carolyn K. McCourt <sup>f</sup>, Howard D. Homesley <sup>g</sup>, Joan L. Walker <sup>h</sup>

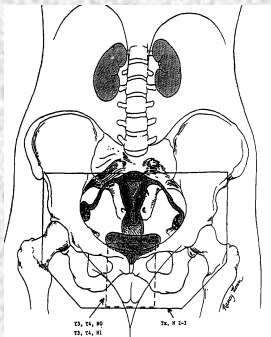
**GOG-205**

Gynecologic Oncology 124 (2012) 529-533

58 T3 or T4 N0-3, M0 primary 1/2005 to 9/2009

not amenable to surgical resection by standard radical vulvectomy.

N0 underwent pretreatment inguinal-femoral lymph node dissection and If pN0, radiation therapy to only the primary tumor



- c CR** → incisional biopsy of the primary tumor site
- c RP** → surgical excision of gross residual disease in the vulva and/or inguinal-femoral lymph nodes

**45 Gy (1.8 Gy) and 57.6 Gy to gross disease**  
**no scheduled radiation break**  
**CDDP weekly (40 mg/m<sup>2</sup>)**

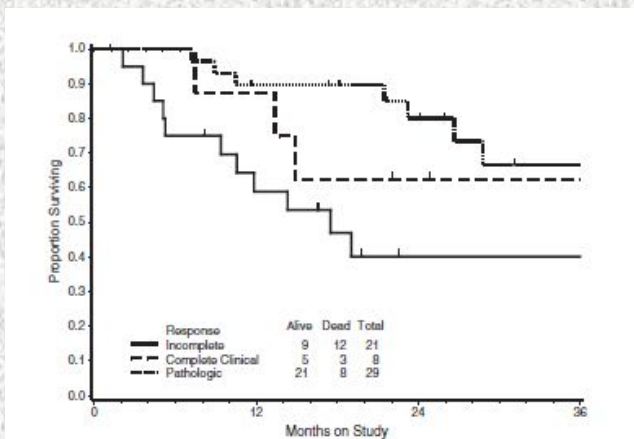


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**40 (69%) women who completed the planned study treatment among all evaluable patients**  
**pCR at the vulvar primary 50% (29/58)**  
**among patients with cCR**  
**pCR at the vulvar primary 78% (29/37),**

Adverse event <sup>a</sup>	Grade				
	0	1	2	3	4
Leukopenia	16	11	13	18	0
Anemia <sup>b</sup>	7	22	25	3	1
Thrombocytopenia	28	22	5	3	0
Neutropenia	30	7	10	8	3
Other hematologic	45	0	0	12	1
Allergy/immunology	54	1	3	0	0
Auditory/hearing	55	0	3	0	0
Cardiovascular	48	3	3	3	1
Fatigue	13	20	20	5	0
Other constitutional symptoms	45	7	6	0	0
Alopecia	45	8	3	2	0
Radiation dermatitis	47	1	4	6	0
Rash desquamation	29	7	12	8	2
Other dermatologic/skin	46	6	4	2	0
Endocrine	50	7	1	0	0
Nausea	15	25	17	1	0
Vomiting	30	19	8	1	0
Diarrhea	20	22	10	6	0
Other gastrointestinal	24	14	11	9	0
Creatinine	47	7	4	0	0
Other renal/genitourinary	37	10	8	3	0
Hemorrhage	54	3	0	1	0
Hepatic	52	4	2	0	0
Infection	44	1	5	7	1
Lymphatics	56	2	0	0	0
Metabolic/laboratory	33	12	3	6	4
Musculoskeletal	54	2	2	0	0
Neuropathy, motor	56	0	2	0	0
Neuropathy, sensory	48	7	3	0	0
Other neurologic	45	7	4	1	1
Ocular/visual	57	1	0	0	0
Pain	23	10	15	10	0
Pulmonary	53	0	4	1	0
Sexual/reproductive	52	4	1	1	0





**A phase II trial of radiation therapy and weekly cisplatin chemotherapy for the treatment of locally-advanced squamous cell carcinoma of the vulva: A gynecologic oncology group study**

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**GOG studies of preoperative chemo-radiation: locally-advanced vulva carcinoma.**

	GOG 101	GOG 205
Evaluable	71	58
CCR	34 (48%)	37 (64%)
PCR	22 (31%)	29 (50%)
PCR/CCR	22/34 (65%)	29/37 (78%)

CCR = Clinical Complete Response.  
 PCR = Pathological Complete Response.

**Conclusions.** This combination of radiation therapy plus weekly cisplatin successfully yielded high complete clinical and pathologic response rates with acceptable toxicity.

# Radiochemotherapy

Patients with advanced stage disease not suitable for surgery due to technical unresectability or medical comorbidities

Patients with early stage disease involving midline structures

**definitive**

**neoadjuvant**

Definition of “ overtly inoperable”

Higher dose=Higher CR??

Which CHT?

Definition of “potentially operable”

Dose 50 Gy is enough?

Which CHT??



# Which Chemotherapy? studies ongoing

**TAX ±** irradiation produce a clear additive cytotoxic effect in several vulvar squamous carcinoma cell lines

Combination of TAX and CDDP had a clear additive or synergistic cytotoxic effect on different vulvar squamous carcinoma cell lines

*Jaakkola Cancer 1996, Jaakkola M, Anticancer Res 1997;  
Raitanen M, Int J Cancer 2002;97:853–7*

TAX in patients with recurrent, metastatic, or locally advanced vulvar cancer

EORTC phase II trial 55985 ongoing

**Gefitinib** in mice transplanted with the human vulvar tumour A431 expressing high levels of epidermal growth factor receptor [EGFR], significantly increased the growth inhibitory action of CDDP and TAX

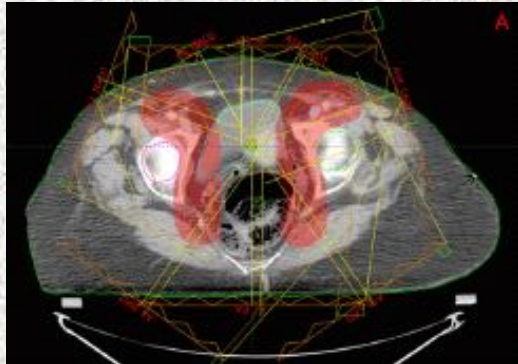
*Sirotnak FM, Clin Cancer Res 2000*

# Which radiotherapy? Studies ongoing

## Preoperative intensity-modulated radiotherapy and chemotherapy for locally advanced vulvar carcinoma

Sushil Beriwal <sup>a,\*</sup>, Devin Coon <sup>a</sup>, Dwight E. Heron <sup>a</sup>, Joseph L. Kelley <sup>b</sup>, Robert P. Edwards <sup>b</sup>,  
Paniti Sukumvanich <sup>b</sup>, Kristin K. Zom <sup>b</sup>, Thomas C. Krivak <sup>b</sup>

Gynecologic Oncology 109 (2008) 291 – 295



**cCR of 74%**  
**pCR of 64%**

### **TOXICITY**

**acute skin reactions in all patients.**  
**No patient had moist desquamation in the groin region.**

**Most patients had radiation induced diarrhea.**

**One patient died of a MI**

**Three/ 14 patients who had surgery had prolonged wound complications**

**No patient had grade 3 or above radiation related acute or late morbidity.**

**Six patients had measurable lymphedema**

**1.6 Gy twice a day for 10 fractions,**

**1.8 Gy once a day for 7–8 fractions, planned break of 10 to 14 days**

**1.6 Gy twice a day for 10 more fractions.**

**CDDP 40 mg/m<sup>2</sup> on Day 1 and 5-FU 750 to 1000 mg/m<sup>2</sup> on Days 1 to 5.**

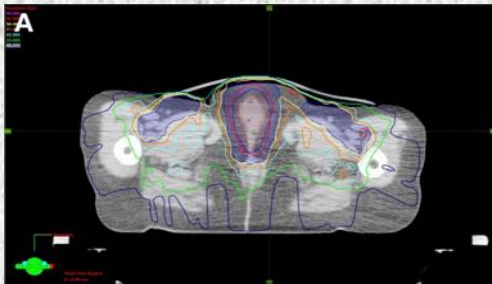
**Surgery of residual tumor or biopsy of the tumor region if the patient had a complete clinical response was planned for 6–8 weeks after treatment.**

# Which radiotherapy? Studies ongoing

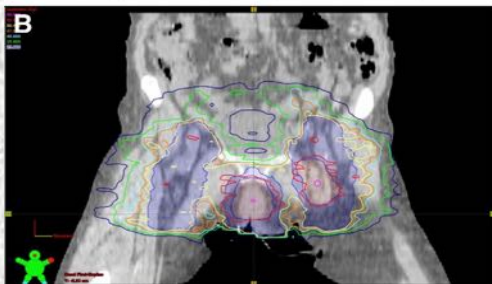
A dosimetric evaluation of dose escalation for the radical treatment of locally advanced vulvar cancer by intensity-modulated radiation therapy

Monique C.W.M. Bloemers, M.D.,\*† Lorraine Portelance, M.D.,† Russell Ruo, M.Sc.,‡ William Parker, Ph.D.,‡ and Luis Souhami, M.D.†

Medical Dosimetry 37 (2012) 310-313



**sequential IMRT boost (seq-IMRT) 56.4 Gy**  
**simultaneous integrated boost (SIB-IMRT) 67.2 Gy.**



**IMRT reduces the dose to the OAR compared with 3D-CRT**  
**IMRT for vulvar cancer is feasible and an attractive option for dose escalation studies**

# New trials Focused on

## Age and comorbidity

Effect of age and comorbidity on the treatment and survival of older patients with vulvar cancer

Rahel G. Ghebre <sup>a,\*</sup>, Rebecca Posthuma <sup>a</sup>, Rachel Isaksson Vogel <sup>b</sup>, Melissa A. Geller <sup>a</sup>, Linda F. Carson <sup>a</sup>

Gynecologic Oncology 121 (2011) 595–599

## Quality of life

Long-term sexual function in survivors of vulvar cancer: a cross-sectional study.  
Hazewinkel MH, Laan ET,

Gynecol Oncol. 2012 Jul;126(1):87-92.



**No** pelvic lymph node dissection

**Yes** inguinal lymph nodes

Dissection in patients with  
clinically negative nodes

**LN sentinel??**

## **The role of Radiation therapy**



deep invasion (>5mm) and  
lymphovascular space  
invasion

Positive margins

Close surgical margin

**No** pelvic lymph node dissection

**Yes** inguinal lymph nodes

Dissection in patients with  
clinically negative nodes

**LN sentinel??**

## The role of Radiation therapy



deep invasion (>5mm) and  
lymphovascular space  
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dissection

in patients with clinically negative  
nodes

## The role of Radiation therapy

More than 1 positive LN  
and/or

Extracapsular disease



deep invasion (>5mm) and  
lymphovascular space  
invasion

Positive margins

Close surgical margin

**No** pelvic lymph node dissection

**Yes** inguinal lymph nodes

dissection

in patients with clinically negative  
nodes

## The role of Radiation therapy

**RTCHT**

definitive or neoadjuvant

**STANDARD?**

in unresectable disease

young patients

More than 1 positive LN  
and/or

Extracapsular disease



deep invasion (>5mm) and  
lymphovascular space  
invasion

Positive margins

Close surgical margin

**No** pelvic lymph node dissection

**Yes** inguinal lymph nodes

dissection

in patients with clinically negative  
nodes

## Multi-disciplinary approach

**RTCHT**

definitive or neoadjuvant

**STANDARD?**


in unresectable disease

young patients


More than 1 positive LN  
and/or

Extracapsular disease





Associazione  
Italiana  
Radioterapia  
Oncologica

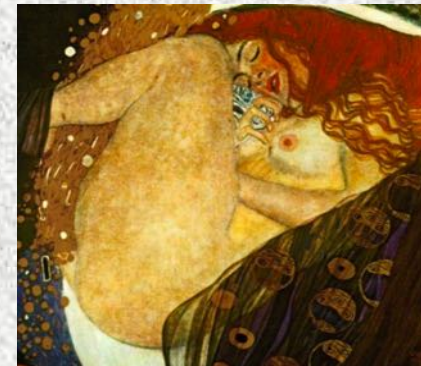


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**Grazie per  
l'attenzione**

