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THE IMPORTANCE OF SENTINEL LYMPH NODES IN THE EARLY DETECTION AND TREATMENT OF CANCERS

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INTRODUCTION

Sentinel lymph node biopsy (SLNB) has established itself as an essential technique for the early detection and treatment of cancers. By identifying and examining the first lymph node to receive drainage from the primary tumor, SLNB allows for targeted evaluation and reduces the need for extensive surgical procedures such as axillary lymphadenectomies. This innovation not only improves diagnostic accuracy, but also minimizes the risks and complications associated with more aggressive treatments.

OBJECTIVE

This study aims to explore the relevance of sentinel lymph nodes in the early detection and management of cancers, highlighting the accuracy and clinical benefits of the technique.

METHODOLOGY

This is a literature review searching for articles published in the last 5 years in the databases: UpToDate, Google scholar and PubMed, with the descriptors: sentinel lymph node, early detection.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Sentinel lymph node biopsy (SLNB) is an essential technique for the early detection of

metastases, identifying the first lymph node to receive drainage from the tumor. In breast cancer, SLNB is highly accurate and reduces the need for extensive axillary lymphadenectomies, avoiding unnecessary invasive procedures and improving patients' quality of life. In gynecological cancers, such as those of the endometrium and vulva, SLNB has also proved effective, allowing for a less aggressive approach and helping with therapeutic planning. The technique stands out for providing detailed information on the spread of the cancer, facilitating the personalization of treatment and potentially improving clinical results. Recent studies confirm the safety and efficacy of SLNB, reinforcing its role in modern oncology. The continuous evolution of methodologies and technologies associated with SLNB contributes to significant advances in the management of various types of cancer, reflecting a positive impact on both diagnostic accuracy and therapeutic approach.

CONCLUSION

Sentinel lymph node biopsy represents a significant advance in the early detection and treatment of cancers, offering high diagnostic accuracy and improving therapeutic management. Its application reduces the need for invasive procedures and promotes a more personalized and effective approach to patient treatment, resulting in more favorable prognoses and more efficient management of cancer cases.

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