



The International Watch and Wait database (IWWD) for Rectal cancer



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INTRODUCTION

Organ preserving strategies, such as Watch & Wait in patients with a clinical complete response (cCR) after chemo- radiotherapy are gaining popularity over the last decades. (1) However, the available clinical trials so far are small in sample size and strategies are heterogeneous, with major differences in:

- The inclusion criteria for patients
- Induction therapy schedules
- Imaging strategies to identify patients with a complete response

OBJECTIVES

In 2014 the IWWD was established by EURECCA and the Champalimaud Foundation. (2) The main goal of the consortium is to collect all available data to expand knowledge on the benefits, risks and oncological safety of organ preserving strategies for the individual patient.

April 2015 the database was opened for data registration.

January 2017:

- 800 patients included
- 38 participating institutes from 11 countries
- New participants welcome!

METHODS

An international multicenter observational study. Data was collected by participating centers and stored in a highly secured NEN7510 certified and encrypted research data server. Each center always retains full ownership of their data.

For this analysis we included only **patients with a clinical complete response**.

RESULTS

679 patients were included in the database with a cCR as reason for inclusion (88%). As shown in the table, imaging modalities used to assess the response after induction therapy were variable. Induction treatment consisted of **chemo-radiotherapy in 90% of patients**. Other patients were treated with a variable schedule of external beam and brachytherapy. No patients received chemotherapy only.

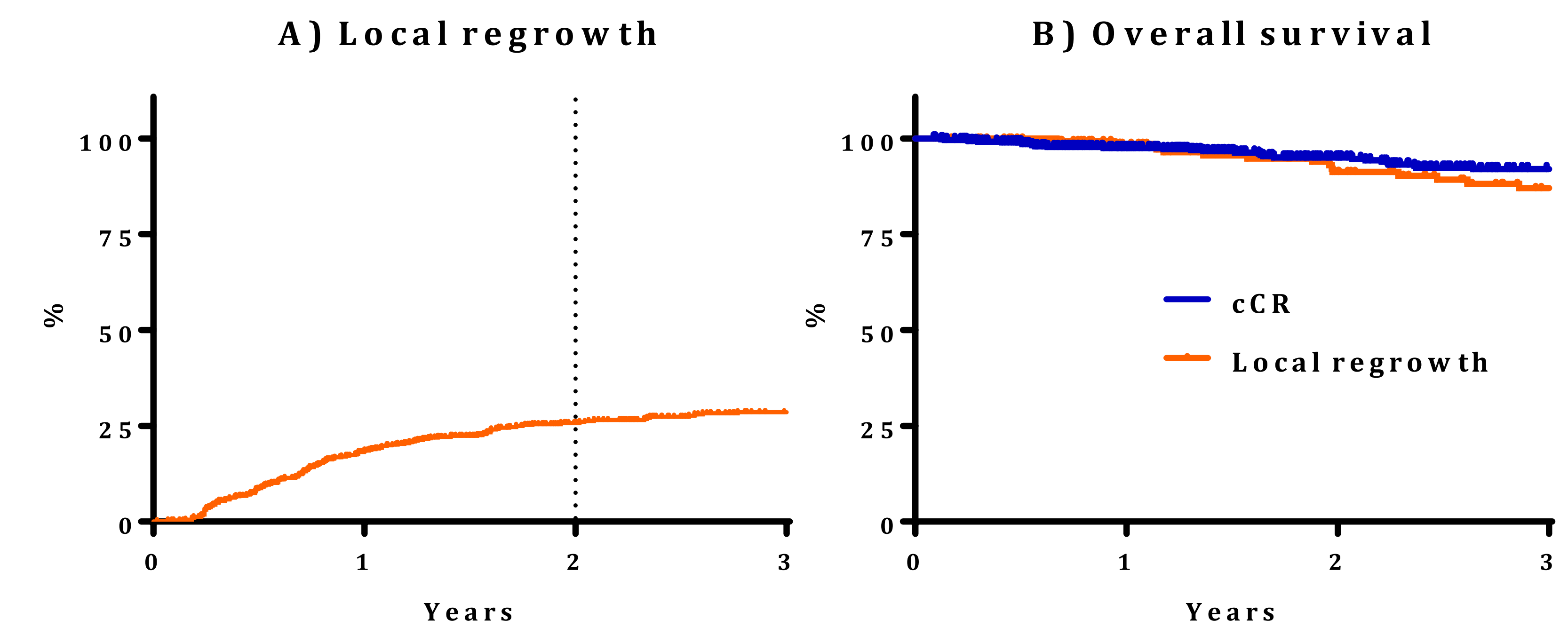
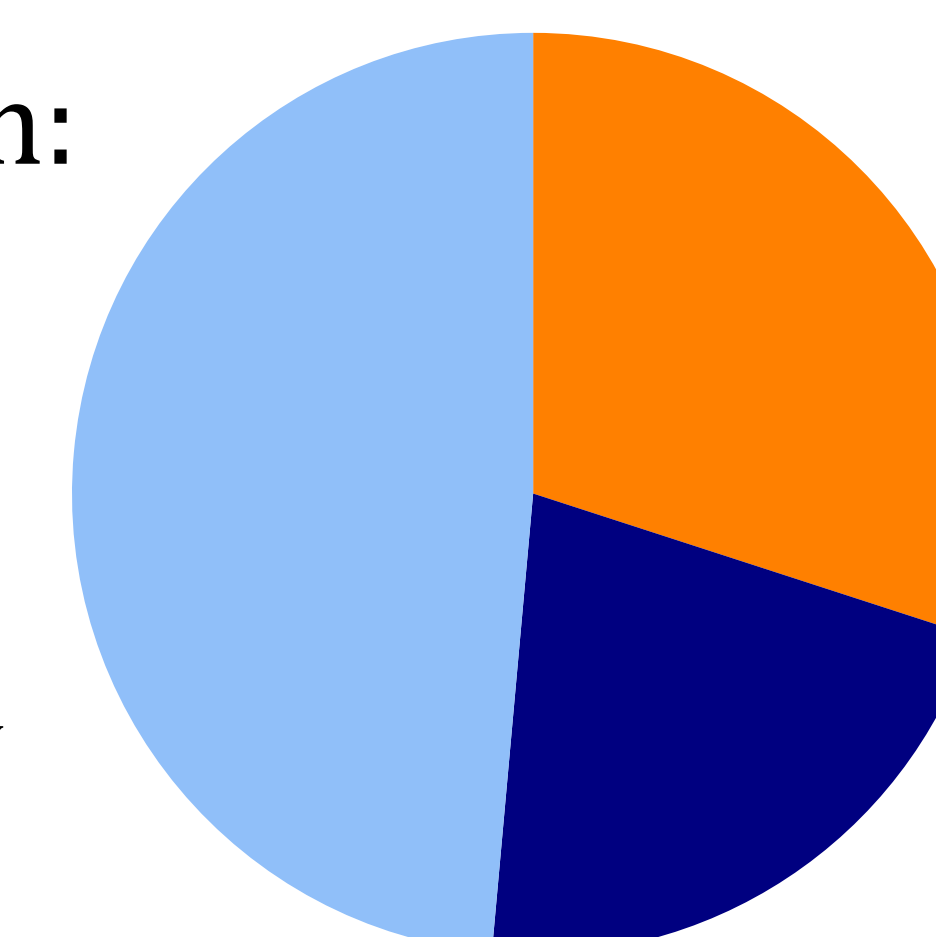
		n=679 (%)
Sex	Male	449(66%)
	Female	230(34%)
Age	Mean	63.6 years
BMI	Mean	26.7kg/m ²
Imaging	Endoscopy	598(87%)
	MRI	434(64%)
	ERUS	42(6%)
	CT-pelvis	172(25%)
T stage baseline	cT1	13(2%)
	cT2	146(28%)
	cT3	335(64%)
	cT4	27(5%)
N stage baseline	cN0	208 (40%)
	cN1	185(35%)
	cN2	132(25%)
M stage baseline	M0	635(99%)
	M+	8(1%)

Mean follow-up time 2.6 years.

- **Local regrowth rate 25%**
 - 96% Endoluminal
 - 4% Locoregional lymph nodes
- Distant metastasis rate 7%
- Overall **3-year survival was 92%**, and for patients with local regrowth this was 87%.

Cause of death:

- Primary disease
- Second malignancy
- Other



(a) The incidence of local regrowth and (b) survival for patients with and without local regrowth

CONCLUSIONS

- Watch and wait strategies are heterogeneous worldwide.
- The risk of cancer related death in W&W patients seems small:
 - Overall 3-year survival is 92%
- The majority of events occurs in the first 2 years:
 - 2-year local regrowth rate: 25%
 - 2-year distant metastasis rate: 7%

REFERENCES

1. Beets GL, Figueiredo NF, Beets-Tan RG. Management of Rectal Cancer Without Radical Resection. Annu Rev Med. 2016.
2. Beets GL, et al. A new paradigm for rectal cancer: Organ preservation: Introducing the International Watch & Wait Database (IWWD). Eur J Surg Oncol. 2015