

# Laparoscopic partial nephrectomy is less morbid than open surgery

Sir,

I read the recent article by Oranusi CK with great interest.<sup>[1]</sup> The authors present their experience of nephron-sparing surgery in the treatment of localized renal cell carcinoma. The study has great contributions to the literature. Nowadays, renal masses can be diagnosed incidentally during abdominal ultrasonography examination or other radiological examinations.<sup>[1,2]</sup> In the light of developing technology, the devices which are being used for diagnosis of renal masses are increasing. Additionally, surgical techniques and minimally invasive surgical procedures are increasing. To overcome this issue, I would like to affix the significance of laparoscopic procedures.

Minimally invasive procedures are very popular today. Recently, laparoscopic nephrectomy is accepted as the gold standard surgical technique in some cases.<sup>[3]</sup> Also, laparoscopic urologic surgical procedures are performed safely in oncologic cases.<sup>[4]</sup> In the literature, there are some studies which show feasibility of laparoscopic partial nephrectomy as oncologically safe.<sup>[5,6]</sup> Major advantages of laparoscopic partial nephrectomy over open partial nephrectomy include decreased perioperative morbidity, lower blood loss, shorter hospitalization, and quicker convalescence.<sup>[7]</sup> Because long-term oncological outcomes have been demonstrated as equivalent to open radical nephrectomy while preserving renal function, indications of partial nephrectomy have been expanded to patients with normal contralateral kidney.<sup>[8]</sup> Laparoscopic partial nephrectomy has emerged as a minimally invasive alternative to partial nephrectomy in order to minimize the morbidity of the open procedure.<sup>[9]</sup> Laparoscopic partial nephrectomy was limited to patients with small, superficial, solitary, and peripheral tumors.<sup>[9]</sup> With increasing experience, laparoscopic partial nephrectomy is now performed for larger, central, and hilar tumors. I have been performing laparoscopic partial nephrectomy since 2009 on my own. I was trained by well-organized fellowship-trained

laparoscopic surgeons from 2004 to 2009 at a university hospital. Up to date, I have performed laparoscopic partial nephrectomy procedure on five patients in my clinic. I have not got any complications and oncologic results were safe.

In the study, the authors conclude that elective open partial nephrectomy should be considered in all incidentally detected small asymptomatic renal masses.<sup>[11]</sup> Although we agree with the authors for partial nephrectomy, laparoscopic surgical procedures, which are minimally invasive, should be considered in these cases. Also, this laparoscopic procedure is oncologically safe.<sup>[9]</sup>

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DOI: 10.4103/1119-3077.100857

PMID: 22960980