CYSTECTOMY: A PROSPECTIVE STUDY
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Introduction & Objectives: The aim of this study is to assess the quality of life (QoL) in patients submitted to radical cystectomy for bladder cancer and to determine the influence of social, economic, demographic and oncological factors and of the type of urinary diversion.

Material & Methods: It is a prospective study in which we evaluate the QoL using the FACT-BL questionnaire (Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy - Bladder) delivered before radical cystectomy and 6 months after the surgery.

Results: We included 46 patients in a two years period. 34 patients completed the 6 month evaluation. The mean age was 64.59 ± 8.43, 34. We obtained an improvement in the total score at six months (113.05 ± 24.4) compared to the evaluation before surgery (108.72 ± 18.26), (p=0.965). We observed a significant worsening in the social/familial condition (SWB) (p=0.002) and an improvement of the emotional condition (EWB) (p=0.0001) and of the specific subscale of the bladder tumour (BLCS) (p=0.046). The only variable associated with the change of the global punctuation of FACT-BL is the age of patient (p=0.038). When we analyzed BLCS two variables were significantly related with change: the age (p=0.023) and the type of the treatment (p=0.013), having better QoL the patients who have been treated by an ileal conduit.

Conclusions: There are no significant differences at 6 month evaluation in the global QoL. Nevertheless, there are changes in the emotional condition, social/familial and in the specific subscale of the bladder tumour. The age and the type of intestinal diversion are the only factors that have demonstrated to be related to variations in the QoL.