

# Importance of Perioperative Management for Elderly Patients undergoing a Low Anterior Resection

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**Abstract:** The aim of this study was to evaluate the perioperative factors affecting the outcome in elderly patients undergoing a low anterior resection (LAR) for advanced rectal carcinoma. The subjects consisted of 57 patients who underwent LAR in our institution between January 1991 and January 2000. The patients were grouped according to age, those aged 75 years and above (group A, n=21) and those aged 65-74 years (group B, n=36). Preoperative complications, operative factors (operation time, bleeding volume) and postoperative morbidities were compared. There were no statistical differences between the groups regarding disease stages, operation time, or the amount of blood lost during surgery. There was no surgical mortality in group A. There was no difference between the groups regarding the length of hospitalization. In elderly patients it is particularly important to make a thorough evaluation before performing surgery and to also provide appropriate postoperative management, particularly regarding respiratory management.

**Key words :** Aging, Perioperative management, Low anterior resection