



The Dalhousie General Surgery Research Collaborative (GSRC)

Improving surgical outcomes through collaborative enquiry

Projects Highlights



TESEO Trial

Transanal Endoscopic Surgery: a Randomized Controlled Trial Comparing Fleet Enema vs Oral Mechanical Bowel Prep

Study Design: Phase IV, single blinded randomized controlled trial.

Background: Studies show mixed results on effectiveness and patient preference for Pico Salax (oral) and Fleet enemas (rectal) bowel prep. There is currently no established standard for bowel prep in TES surgery.

Objectives: Investigate which method offers better rectal cleansing, visibility, post-op outcomes, and patient preference.

ICHOM

Leveraging emerging digital health technology to implement the International Consortium for Health Outcome Measurement (ICHOM) standard set of value-based patient-centered outcomes for colorectal cancer: the colorectal cancer care pathway

Study Design: Prospective cohort study.

Background: Studies indicate high colorectal cancer burden and worse outcomes in Atlantic Canada compared to national averages.

Objectives: Study aims to establish a prospective database, with a focus on patient-centered outcomes. The database will facilitate benchmarking with the Dutch Institute for Clinical Auditing (DICA) to improve CRC care in Nova Scotia.

PATH Trial

Application of the Palliative and Therapeutic Harmonization (PATH) program for shared-decision making for severely frail or cognitively impaired patients scheduled for curative cancer surgery: a randomized control trial (PATH Trial)

Study Design: Open label, randomized control trial.

Background: Preoperative geriatric assessment enhances risk stratification, shared decision-making, and multidisciplinary intervention however, there's limited adoption of frailty assessment in cancer surgery.

Objectives: Assess if preoperative PATH clinic assessment improves the proportion of time spent at home 6 months post-surgery, home care utilization, death, new disability, and decision regret.

TNT Study

Nova Scotia-Based Total Neoadjuvant Treatment (TNT) for the Treatment of Locally Advanced Rectal Cancer: Assessing Success of Implementation and Outcomes Associated with a Provincially Standardized Algorithm

Study Design: Prospective cohort study.

Background: Total neoadjuvant treatment (TNT) has shown promise in improving rectal cancer outcomes. However, the lack of standardization across various TNT protocols presents challenges. To address this, Nova Scotia's colorectal disease group is working to establish standardized protocols for rectal cancer treatment.

Objectives: To implement an algorithm for rectal cancer therapy and evaluate the algorithm through patient outcomes, adherence, and barriers to care.

CUSA Study

Quantifying suspended colorectal tumour cells during hepatectomies in CUSA aspirate and their predictive value for same-site liver cancer recurrence.

Study Design: Prospective cohort study.

Background: Despite the improvements in the treatment of colorectal liver metastasis (CRLM), recurrence—particularly at the same site—remains a major challenge. The use of the cavitron ultrasonic surgical aspirator (CUSA) during liver resection enables precise tumor removal, but evaluating the generated aspirate has not been fully explored.

Objectives: Investigate the association between free tumor cell quantity in the CUSA aspirate and same-site recurrence of CRLM.