



# **FERTILITY PRESERVING SURGERY FOR SMALL CANCERS OF THE CERVIX**

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# PRESENT DAY PERSPECTIVES

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- Delay of pregnancy- incidence of first birth increased 31% for women age 35-39, and 51% ages 40-45 between 1990-2002
- Reduction in # of pregnancies
- 45% of Stage I pts undergoing Rad Hyst <40 yrs
- Relapse rate ~10% in node negative pts

# CHANGES IN SURGICAL ONCOLOGY OVER THE PAST 100 YRS

- Halstead philosophy abandoned
- greater attention to organ function, body image, quality of life including fertility preservation
- Wide radical local excision of primary + regional node assessment incl sentinel lymph node concept
- prognostic factors other than margins (size, grade, depth, CLS, etc)
- Multi-modal therapy (radiation and chemotherapy)

# **PERSPECTIVES ON RADICAL TRACHELECTOMY**

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- Originally described in 1940's in Romania
- Vaginal approach repopularized with advent of laparoscopy in 1980's by Dr. Dargent
- Publications by Lyon, Quebec City, London, Toronto- ~ 500 pts reported
- Efficacy appears to be validated by survival data
- Abdominal approach popular in US, Eastern Europe- MSKCC, Budapest

# Rationale for Radical Trachelectomy

## Small Cervical cancers IB<sub>1</sub>:

- Tend to spread laterally to parametria
- Occasionally spread to upper vagina
- Rarely spread to body of uterus
- Therefore, removal of cervix, parametria and upper vagina in small IB tumors should be safe and **preserve fertility**

# METHODS OF FERTILITY PRESERVATION FOR CERVICAL CA

- **Lpsc Pelvic lymphadenectomy +ovarian transposition + IC rads IVF.**  
*(Covens et al, Eur J Gyn Oncol, 17:177, 1996)*
- **Lpsc Pelvic lymphadenectomy,+ radical vaginal trachelectomy.**  
*(Dargent et al, SGO 1994)*
- **Lpsc pelvic and paramet nodes + Cone/simple trach**  
*(Rob et al, Gyn Oncol 2008)*
- **NACT X3 followed by Lpsc pelvic and paramet nodes + Cone/simple trach**  
*(Rob et al, Gyn Oncol 2008)*

# Cone/Simple Trachelectomy

## <2cm tumours

- Lpsc PLN and parametrial node dissection. If positive, rad hyst
- If negative nodes → 7 days later cone (stage IA2), or simple trachelectomy (stage IB1)
- NAC for >2cm, or >50% stromal involvement (<66%)
- Then above schema.

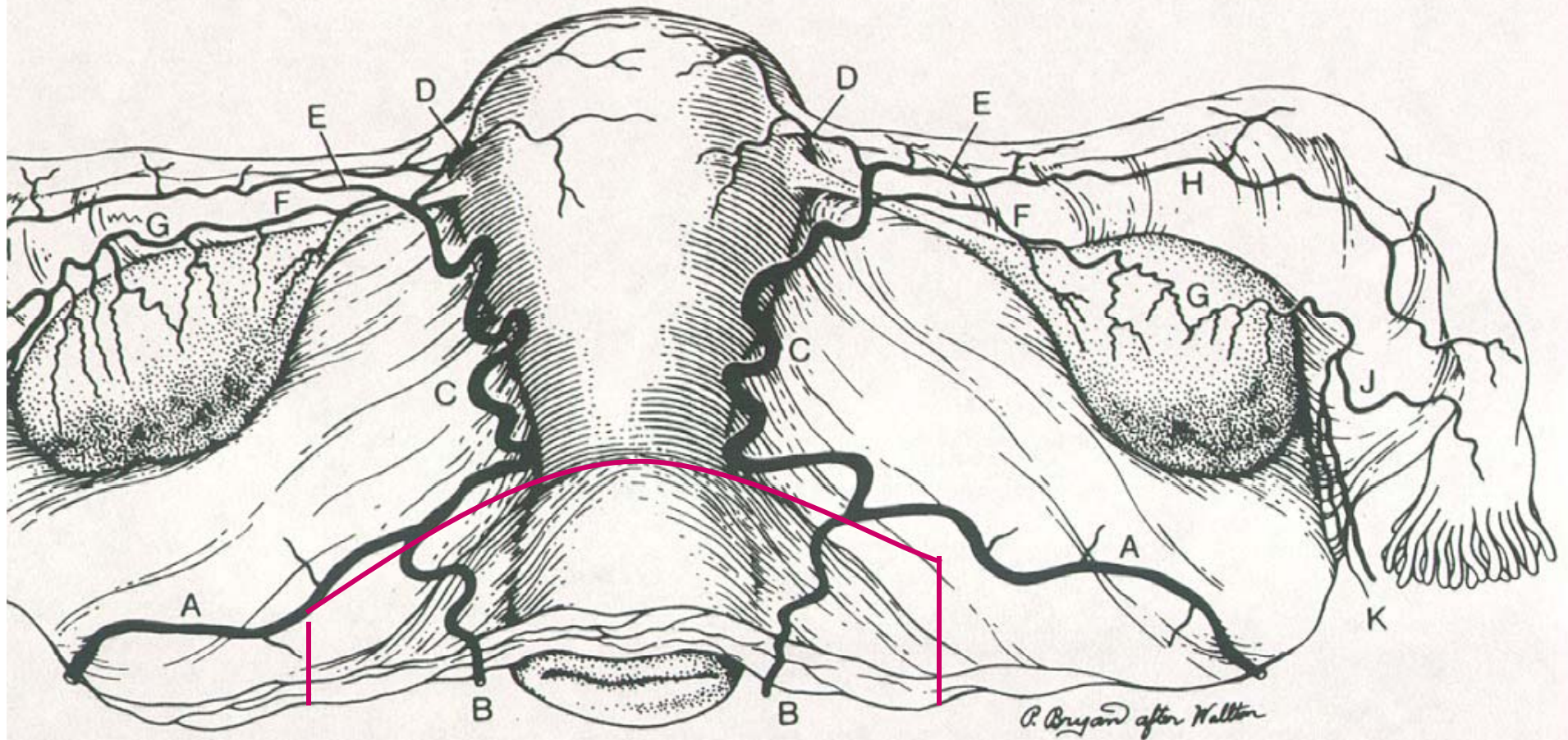
# Cone/Simple Trachelectomy

	Stage 1A1/1A2	Stage IB1	NAC
<b>N</b>	13	27	9
<b>+ nodes</b>	3	3	
<b>Cone</b>	10		
<b>Simple trach</b>		24	7
<b>Median fup</b>	47 mos		
<b>Recurrence</b>	1 (central)		

# Cone/Simple Trachelectomy

## Pregnancy Outcomes

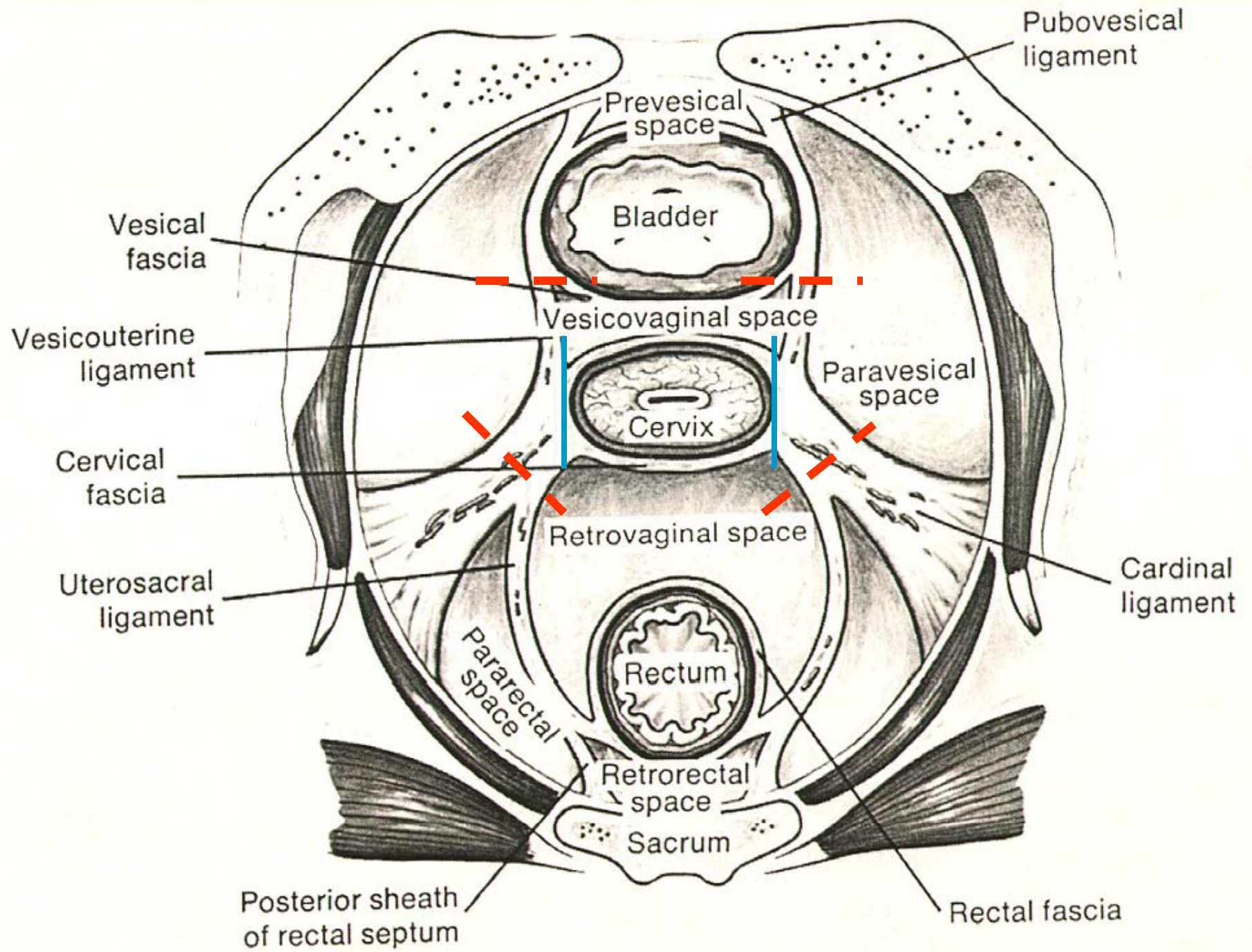
Attempted preg	24 of 32 women
# preg	23 in 17 women
TAB/ectopic	2
SA T1	2
T2 loss	3
24-34	1
34-35	2
37-39	9



**FIG. 11-7** Normal uterus and adnexa with schematic representation of the usual ovarian and uterine artery branches. Many variations exist.

**A** = Uterine artery in parametrium  
**B** = Cervico-vaginal branch  
**C** = Uterine artery along lateral margin of the uterus  
**D** = Fundal branch  
**E** = Medial tubal branch

**F** = Medial ovarian branch  
**G** = Ovarian arcade  
**H** = Tubal arcade  
**I** = Lateral tubal branch  
**J** = Infundibular branch  
**K** = Ovarian artery



# IMPORTANCE OF REMOVING ALL/PART OF PARAMETRIUM?

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- As a means of obtaining wide local excision and tumour-free margins
- Removal of site of spread

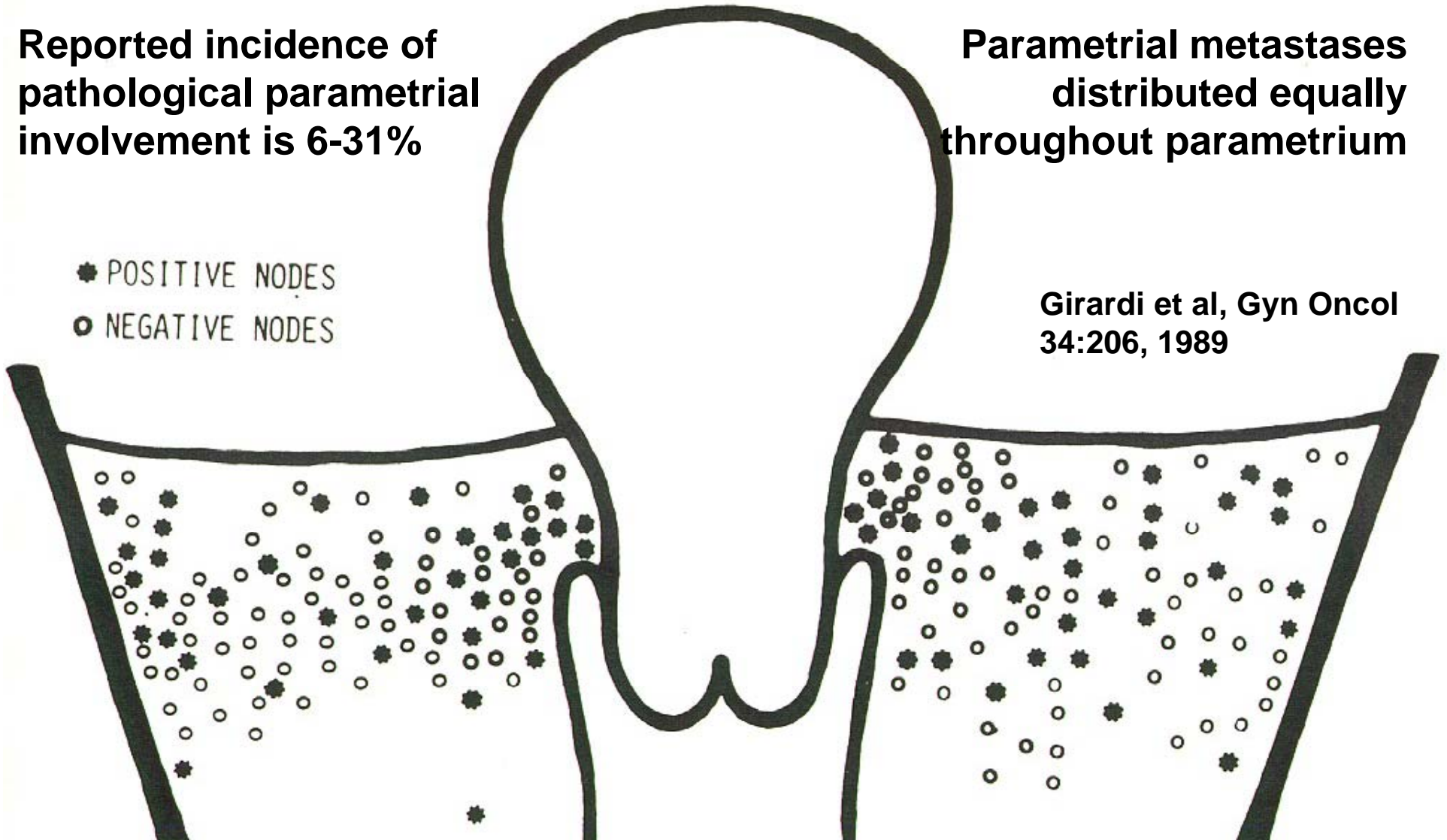
# PARAMETRIAL LYMPH NODES

Reported incidence of pathological parametrial involvement is 6-31%

Parametrial metastases distributed equally throughout parametrium

- ✱ POSITIVE NODES
- NEGATIVE NODES

Girardi et al, Gyn Oncol  
34:206, 1989



# RVT+LSLND

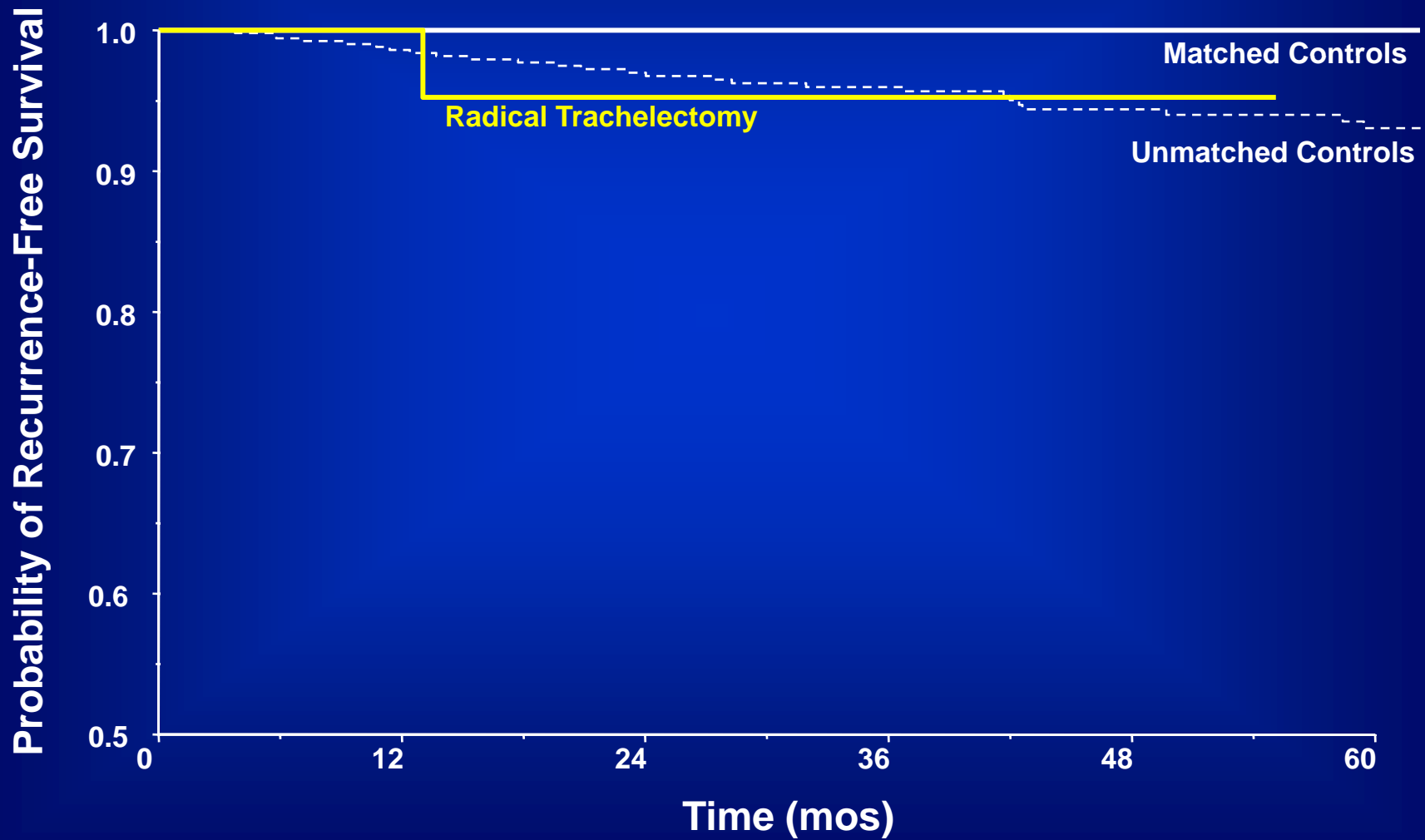
## Criteria:

1.  $\leq$  2 cm tumour
2. desires fertility preserv'n
3.  $\neq$  SGO def'n of microinvasion

## Adjuvant rads:

1. + lymph nodes
2. + margins
3. deep invasion (>66%)  
+ cls

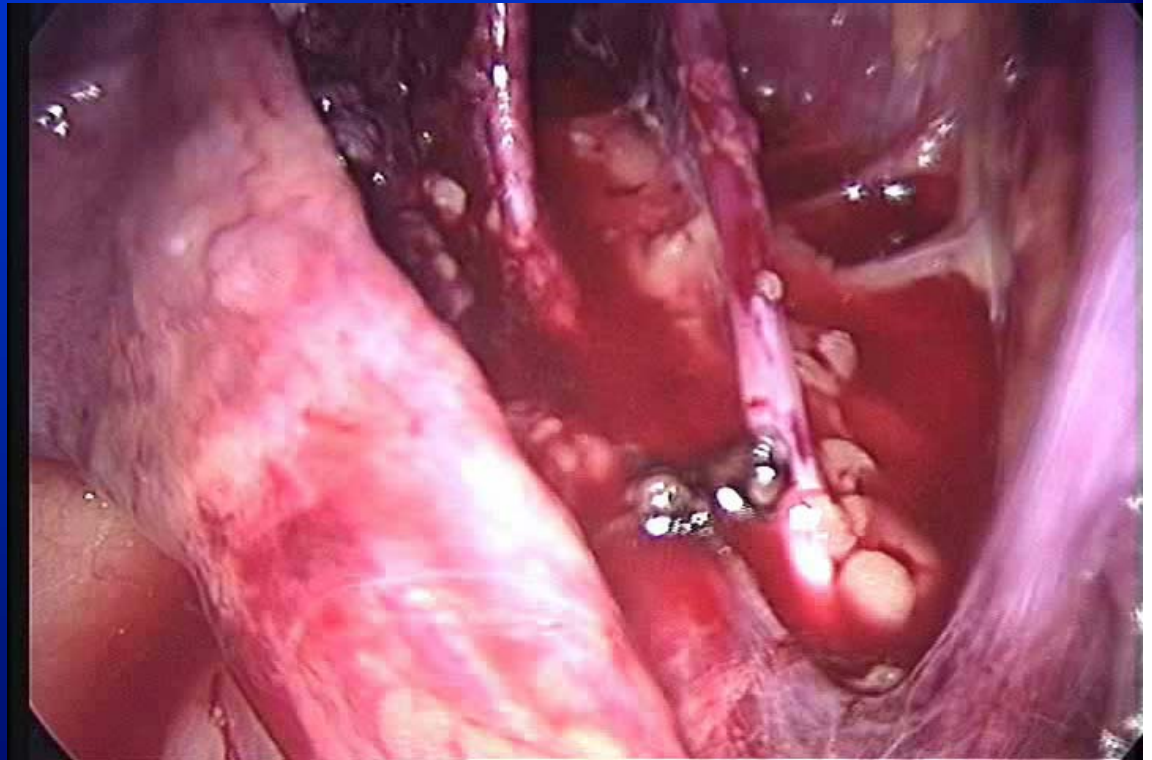
# RECURRENCE-FREE SURVIVAL



# SURGICAL PROCEDURE (historical)

## Complete Transperitoneal Pelvic Lymphadenectomy:

- bifurcation of the common iliac artery (superiorly)
- circumflex vein (inferiorly)
- psoas muscle (laterally)
- ureter (medially)
- obturator nerve (posteriorly).



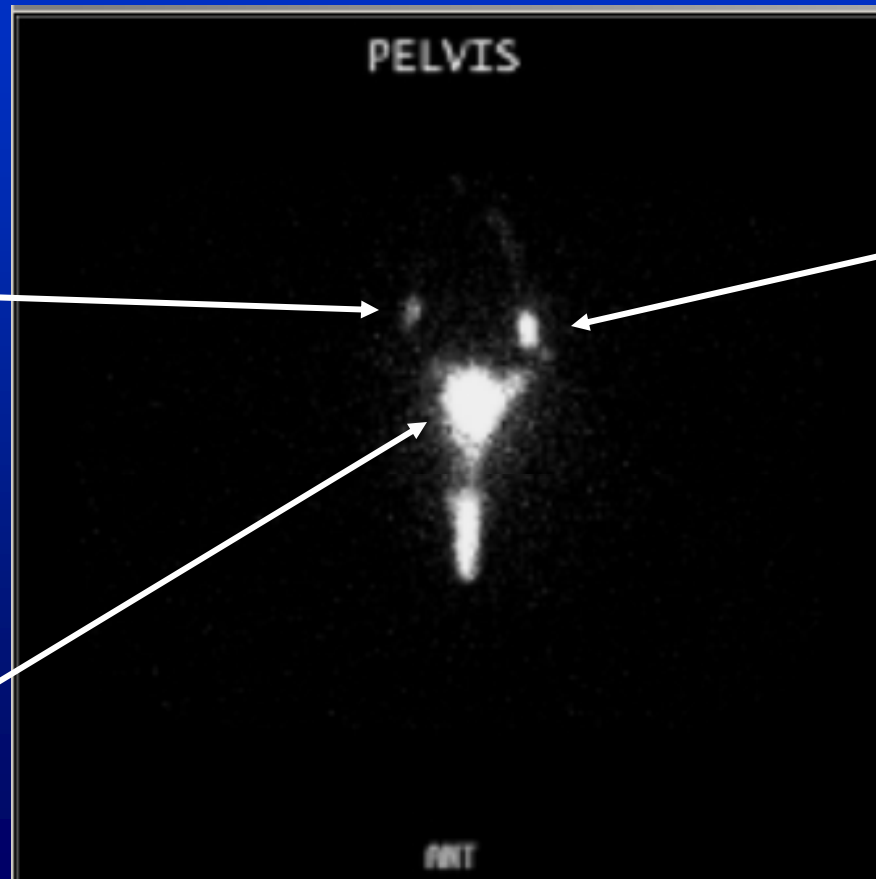
# SENTINEL LYMPH NODE DISSECTION IN CERVIX CANCER

- Inject 2-4 sites with Technetium (preop) and lymphazurin (intraop if bilateral sentinel nodes not found on Scintogram), superficially into stroma at periphery of tumour

Right obturator  
sentinel node

Left obturator  
sentinel node

Cervix &  
Parametrium



# LPSC Rt Obturator Sentinel Lymph Node Dissection



# MICROMETS IN CERVIX CANCER

- 894 surgically treated Cervix cancer patients
- Compared micromets (<2mm) vs macromets vs neg nodes
- 22% of node positives were micromets

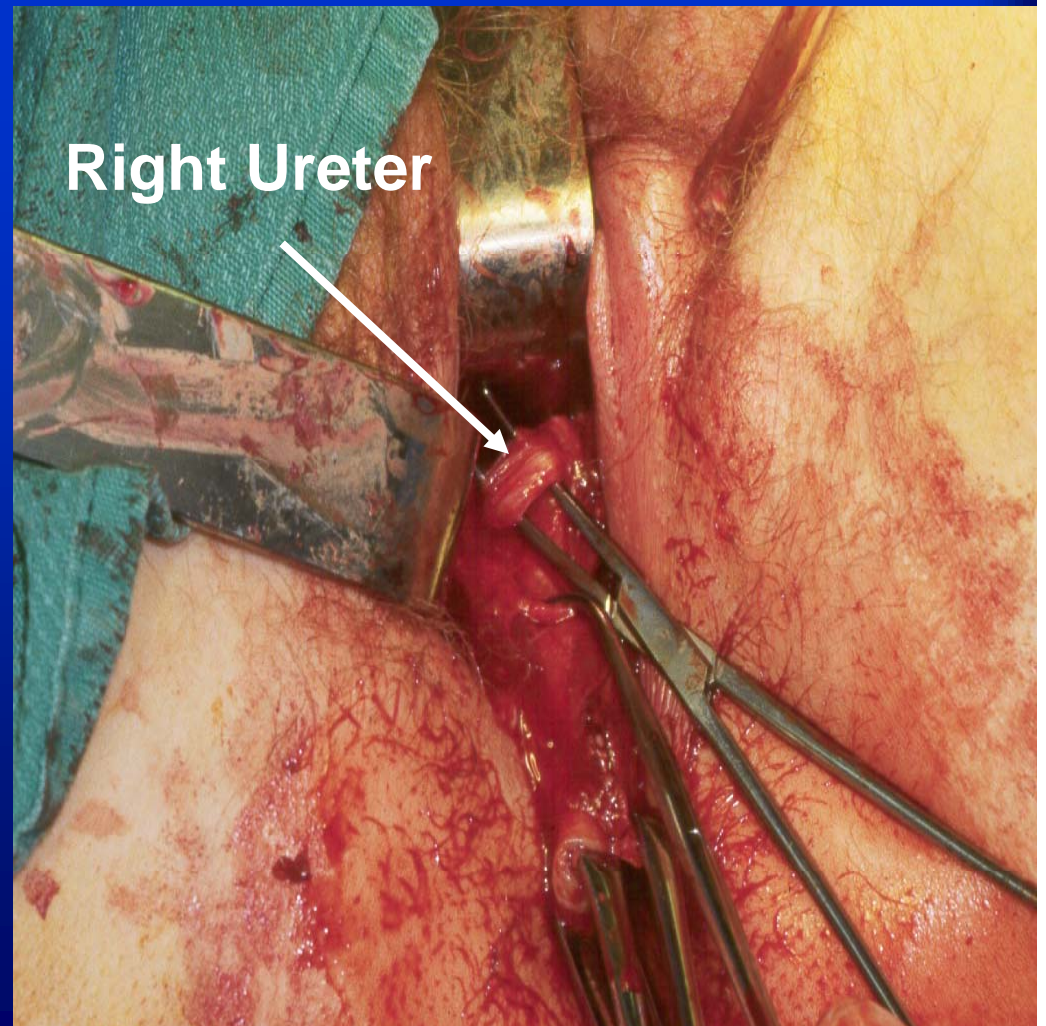
	<b>Neg nodes</b>	<b>Micro mets</b>	<b>Macro mets</b>
<b>5 yr RFS*</b>	91%	69%	62%
<b>5 yr OS*</b>	87%	64%	48%

**\*P<0.001**

*Horn et al, Gyn Oncol 2008*

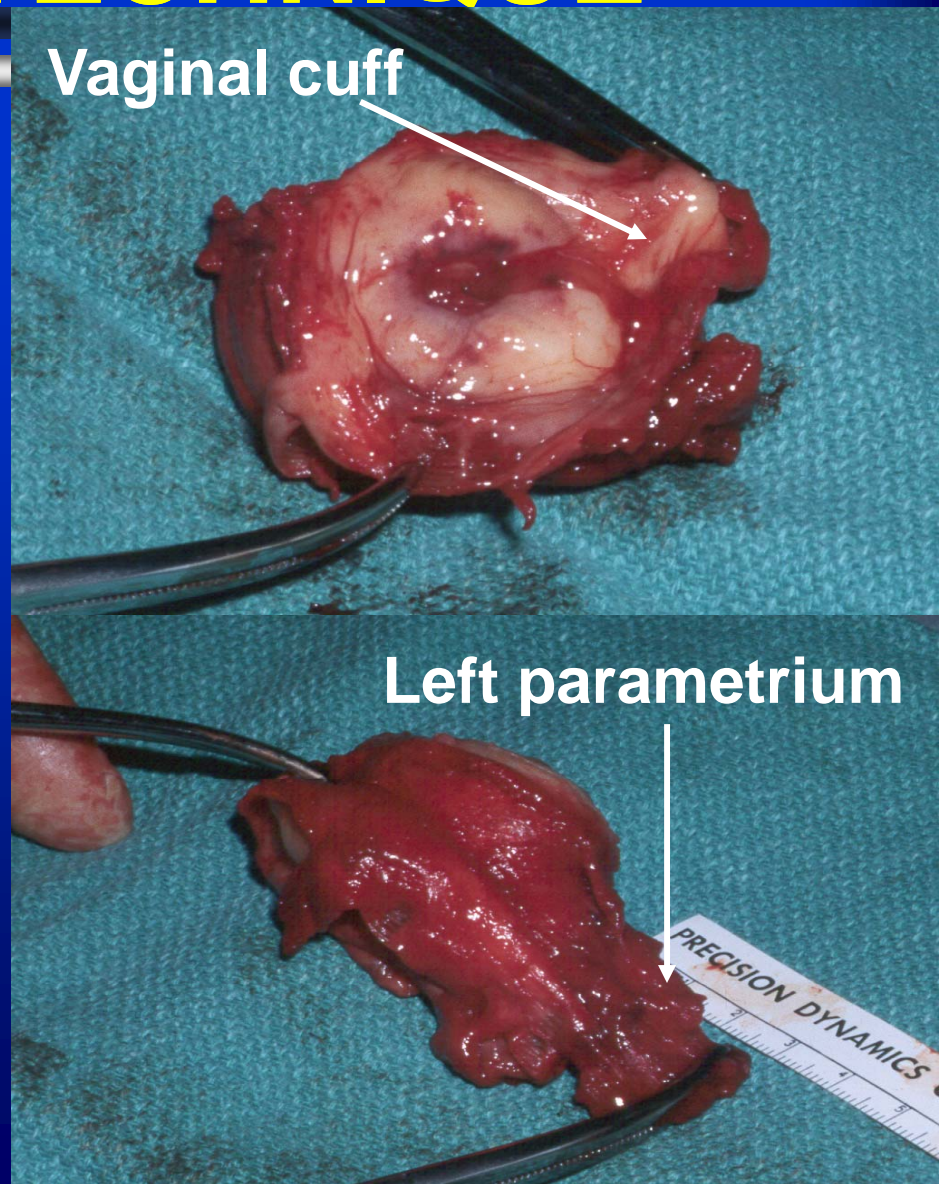
# SURGICAL TECHNIQUE

- open para-vesical and para-rectal spaces vaginally
- identification of ureter in utero-vesical ligament
- ligate vaginal branch of uterine artery



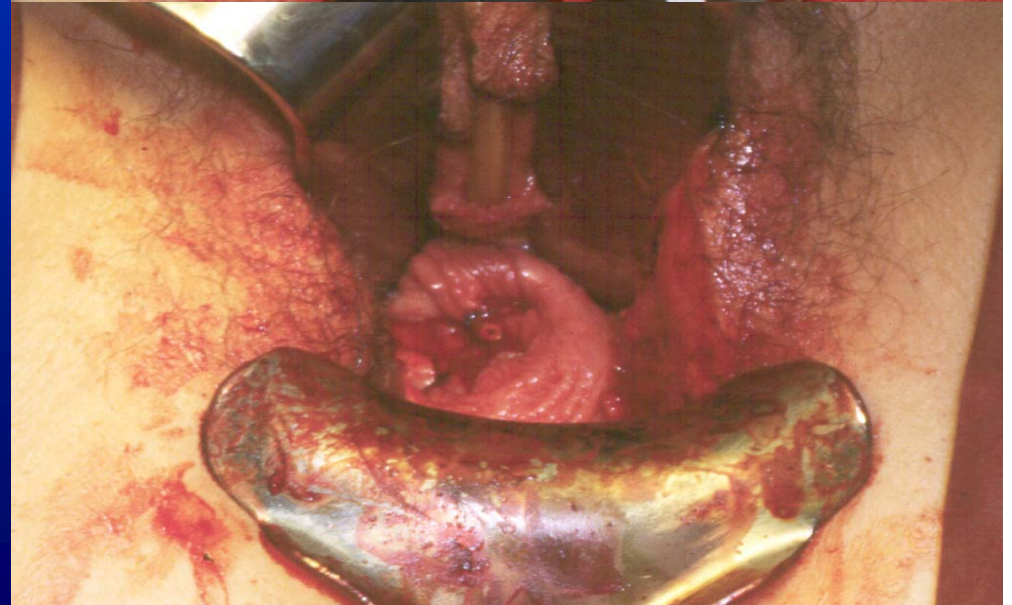
# SURGICAL TECHNIQUE

- resection of 1-2 cm vaginal cuff
- resect medial 1/2 of cardinal and uterosacral ligaments



# SURGICAL TECHNIQUE

- transect cervix at lower uterine segment
- frozen section of superior margin
- mersilene suture placed around lower uterine segment
- vaginal mucosa sutured to cervical stump
- 8 French rubber catheter placed in endocervical canal



# FOLLOW-UP

- Q 3 mos for 2 yrs, Q 6 mos for 3 yrs, then yearly
- physical and pelvic exam, pap smear, colposcopy
- no prohibition of conceiving for any specified amount of time postop
- Cesarean section required for delivery due to cerclage

2-3 Weeks postop



Months postop



# RESULTS

	RT	RH	P-value
<b>N</b>	141	1002	
<b>Age (yrs)</b>	31	41	p<0.001
<b>Quetelet Index</b>	23.4	24.5	n.s.
<b>Depth Inv (mm)</b>			
<b>SCC</b>	5.0	6.0	n.s.
<b>Adeno</b>	3.0	5.0	p<0.001
<b>+ CLS</b>	37%	46%	P<0.05
<b>+ PLN</b>	5%	7%	n.s.

# RESULTS

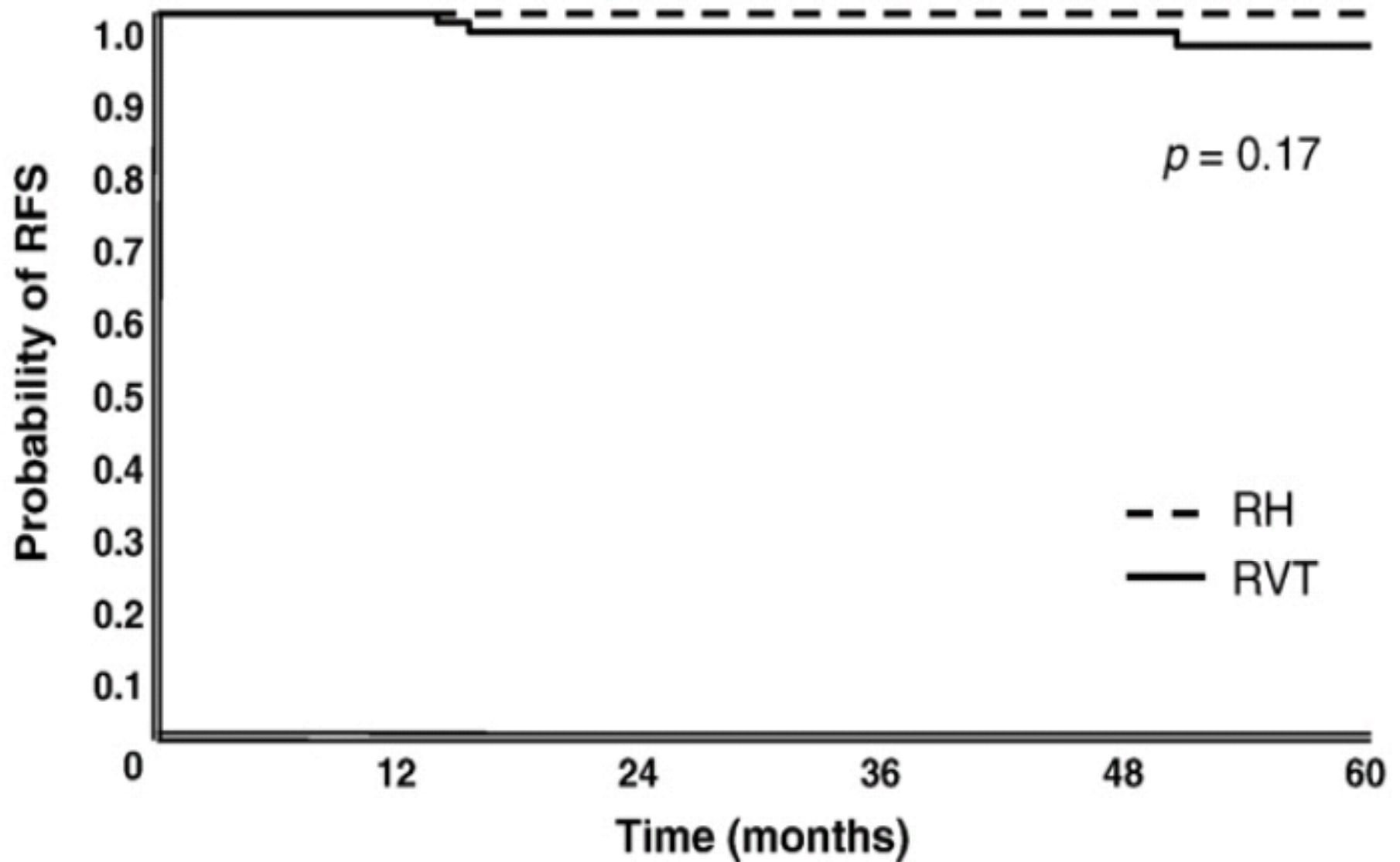
	RT	RH	P-value
<b>N</b>	141	1002	
<b>Tumour Size (cm)</b>	2.0	2.0	n.s.
<b>OR time (hrs)</b>	2.8	2.75	n.s.
<b>Blood Loss (mls)</b>	300	550	p<0.001
<b>Hospital Stay (days)</b>	1.0	6.5	p<0.001
<b>Time-postvoid Resid&lt;100cc (days)</b>	3.0	6.0	p<0.001
<b>+ margins</b>	2%	3%	n.s.
<b>Adj Rads</b>	5%	15%	p<0.006

# RESULTS

	RT	RH	P-value
<b>N</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>1002</b>	
<b>Compl'ns</b>			
<b>Intraop</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>P&lt;0.02</b>
<b>Postop</b>			
<b>Infect</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>P&lt;0.006</b>
<b>Non-Infect</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>p,&lt;0.02</b>
<b>Peri-op allogeneic blood transfusion</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>p&lt;0.001</b>
<b>Rec-Free Surv</b>			<b>n.s.</b>
<b>2yr</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>94%</b>	
<b>5yr</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>90%</b>	

# RECURRENCE-FREE SURVIVAL

*Beiner et al, Gyn Oncol 110:168, 2008*



# LITERATURE

*Beiner and Covens, Nature Clin Prac Oncol 4:353-361, 2007*

	Toronto	Lyon	Quebec City	London	Pasadena	Ger	Total
<b>Age</b>	31	32	31	31	30	32	31
<b>Size</b>							
<b>&lt;2 cm</b>	95%	70%	90%			100%	88%
<b>&gt;2 cm</b>	6%	30%	10%			0	12%
<b>Hist</b>							
<b>ScC</b>	41%	80%	60%	67%	57%	69%	64%
<b>Adeno</b>	59%	20%	40%	33%	43%	31%	36%
<b>+ CLS</b>	37%	24%	21%	32%	14%	35%	28%
<b>+ PLN</b>	4%	7%	6%	6%	5%	4%	5%

# LITERATURE

*Beiner and Covens, Nature Clin Prac Oncol 4:353-361, 2007*

	Toronto	Lyon	Quebec City	London	NYC	Ger
<b>N</b>	134	118	115	123	40	108
<b>EBL (cc)</b>	300		254		150	
<b>OR time (mins)</b>	165	161	252		300	253
<b>Hosp Stay (days)</b>	1	7	4			8

# LITERATURE

*Beiner and Covens, Nature Clin Prac Oncol 4:353-361,  
2007*

	Toronto	Lyon	Quebec City	London	NYC	Ger
<b>N</b>	134	118	115	123	36	108
<b>FUP</b>	44	95	74	45	21	29
<b>Recur</b>	5.2%	6.0%	3%	4%	3%	3.7%
<b>Death</b>	2.9%	4.0%	2%	4%	0	1.9%

# LITERATURE

*Beiner and Covens, Nature Clin Prac Oncol 4:353-361,  
2007*

	Tor	Lyon	QC	Lond	NYC	Ger	Total
<b>central</b>	1	2	1	2	1	3	34%
<b>Sidewall</b>	1	1		2		1	19%
<b>Nodes</b>	4	1	1				19%
<b>distant</b>	1	0	2				12%

*12% site not  
reported*

# RADICAL ABDOMINAL TRACHELECTOMY

All stage IB1

<b>N</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Adeno/ Scc</b>	<b>+ CLS</b>	<b>+ PLN</b>	<b>OR time</b>	<b>Blood loss</b>	<b>Hosp stay</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>33</b> <b>(23-43)</b>	<b>59%/</b> <b>41%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>298</b> <b>(180-425)</b>	<b>250ml</b> <b>(50-700)</b>	<b>4</b> <b>(3-6)</b>

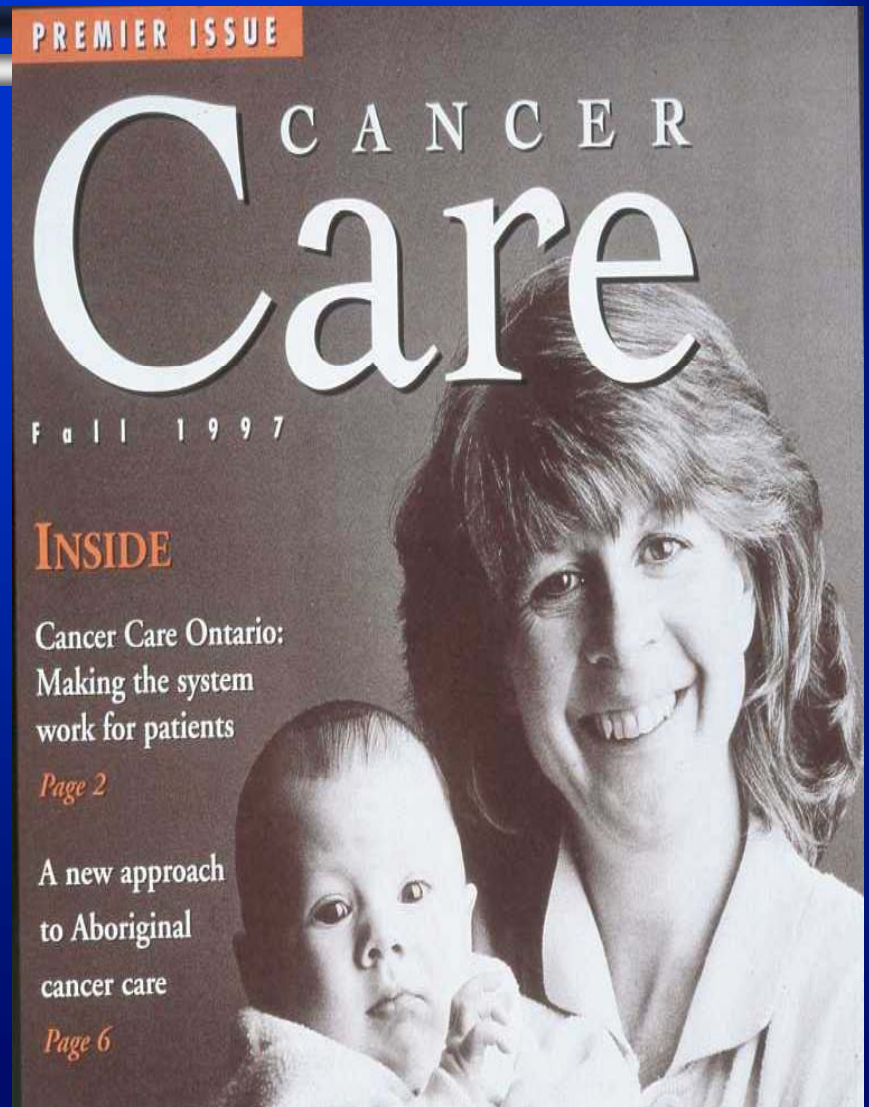
# PREGNANCY AND RADICAL TRACHELECTOMY

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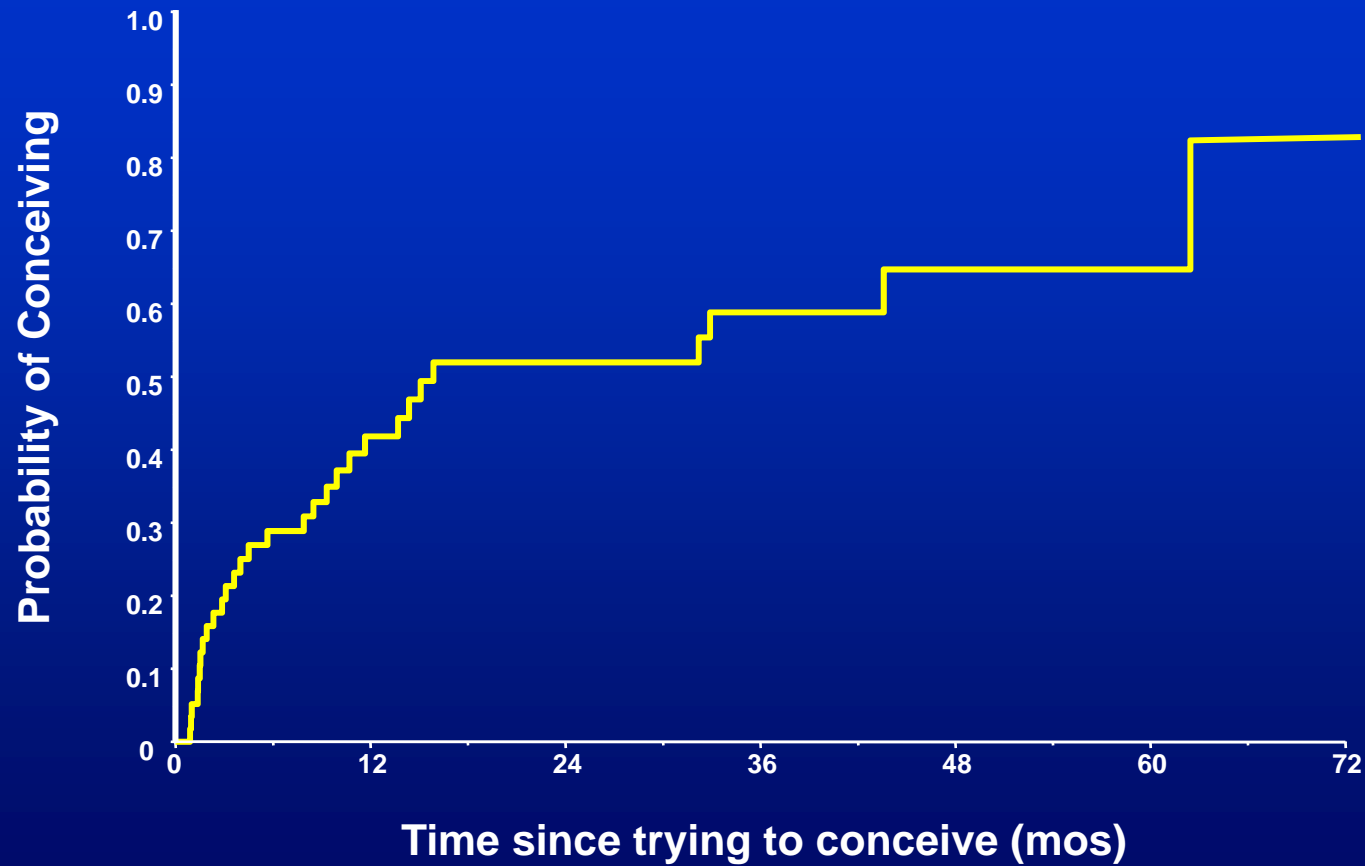
- **Number of pregnancies after trachelectomy few ~200 reported**
- **Fertility rate post trachelectomy unknown**
- **Outcomes of pregnancies not well characterized**
- **Optimal method of management of pregnancies unknown**

# FERTILITY

- 76 patients have/are attempting conception for a median of 12 mos (range 1.0-88.0)
- 59 pregnancies have occurred in 39 patients (median time 6 mos)
- 67% of the pregnant patients- nulligravid at time of trachelectomy



# ACTUARIAL CONCEPTION RATE



# LITERATURE

*Beiner and Covens, Nature Clin Prac Oncol 4:353-361, 2007*

	Toronto	Lyon	Quebec City	London	NYC	Ger
<b>Preg</b>	59	56	87	55	11	18
<b>SA</b>	15%	16%	20%	25%	27%	5%
<b>T2 Loss</b>	7%	14%	4%	13%	1	0
<b>T3</b>						67%
<b>24-32</b>	18%	6%	5%	29%	0	
<b>33-36</b>	18%	9%	14%	43%	0	
<b>≥37</b>	63%	85%	81%	29%	100%	

# CONCLUSIONS

- 1) RVT+ LSLND is feasible and safe to perform
- 2) Blood loss, transfusion rates, hospital stay and time to normal urine residual are significantly decreased with RVT+ LSLND
- 3) No difference in recurrence-free survival noted in comparison to radical hysterectomy
- 4) Fertility rate appears to be lower than general population

# CONCLUSIONS

*Bernardini M et al. Am J Obstet Gynecol 189: 1378–1382, 2003*

- 5) First Trimester spontaneous abortion rate- 14%, likely no different than expected
- 6) Premature Delivery is very high, most due to Preterm/Premature ROM- 33% (may be high secondary to 2 sets of twins)
- 7) Twin Pregnancies are associated with high rate of extreme prematurity, and may be deleterious after this procedure
- 8) These pregnancies are high risk, and should be managed by obstetricians/teams familiar with such

# CONCLUSIONS

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- This procedure has become an acceptable alternative to radical hysterectomy for patients with small carcinomas of the cervix wishing preservation of fertility

## THE FUTURE

- wide conization + sentinel lymph node dissection?