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## Quality assurance in surgical oncology

Peeters, K.C.M.J.

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**Quality assurance in  
surgical oncology**

**Koen Peeters**



Cover: *David with the Head of Goliath* (1606) by Michelangelo Merisi Caravaggio (1571-1610)

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Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna, Austria

David, a shepherd from an early age, developed his courage and fighting skills by defending the flocks from the wild animals that preyed upon them. The free time that being a shepherd provided also allowed him to develop two other skills, that of music and poetry. David was a warrior, and a writer of psalms.

When the Israelites were at war with the Philistines, the two armies faced each other from opposite hills with the Valley of Elah between them. Every morning for forty days, the mighty Philistine Goliath (he may have stood over 9 feet tall) challenged the Israelites for someone to come out and fight him, but none would go out. One day, David, who was actually then too young for the army, arrived with some deliveries for his older brothers. He heard Goliath and immediately volunteered to fight him.

When David explained to King Saul that he had been fighting fierce animals all his life, he convinced the king that he could defeat the Philistine. Perhaps by then the king was willing to try anything to get out of the embarrassing situation, and even if David were not successful the Israelites could always belittle his lack of success with the excuse that David was "just a kid."

After turning down an offer of the king's own armor, which was too big for him, David went down to the creek and got five suitable stones (five, not just one, as any prudent marksman would do when facing a very formidable opponent). He killed Goliath with a single perfectly-accurate shot, perhaps with a little help from an angel – the stone didn't just rebound off the giant man's thick skull as would naturally be expected, but actually penetrated with the power of a modern high-velocity bullet. Upon seeing their hero defeated, the Philistine army made a disorderly retreat, giving the Israelites then in hot pursuit the victory.

Samuel 17:1-58

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# Quality assurance in surgical oncology

## Proefschrift

ter verkrijging van  
de graad van Doctor aan de Universiteit Leiden,  
op gezag van Rector Magnificus prof.mr. P.F. van der Heijden,  
volgens besluit van het College voor Promoties  
te verdedigen op woensdag 28 maart 2007  
klokke 16.15 uur

door

**Koen Clemens Maria Johannes Peeters**

geboren te Heerlen  
in 1972

## **PROMOTIECOMMISSIE**

Promotor: Prof. Dr. C.J.H. van de Velde

Referent: Prof. Dr. P.H.M. de Mulder  
(Universitair Medisch Centrum Nijmegen St. Radboud)

Overige leden: Prof. Dr. J.H.J.M. van Krieken  
(Universitair Medisch Centrum Nijmegen St. Radboud)  
Prof. Dr. R.A.E.M. Tollenaar  
Prof. Dr. Th. Wiggers  
(Academisch Ziekenhuis Groningen)

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Op een dag kwam een weledelzeergeleerd en hoogstbeschaafd heer de Atheense staatsman Themistocles opzoeken met de blijde boodschap dat hij hem de finesses van de toen pas gelanceerde mnemotechniek kon bijbrengen. Themistocles vroeg hem welke boodschap hij dan aan die wetenschap kon hebben. De doctor antwoordde: 'Zij zal u in staat stellen alles te onthouden.' Waarop de staatsman zuchtte: 'Ik wou alleen maar dat u mij kon leren niet te onthouden wat ik maar al te graag zou vergeten.'

De oratore 2, 299

Marcus Tullius Cicero 106-43 v.C.

*Aan mijn ouders  
Voor Suzan*



## CONTENTS

- 1 General introduction and outline 9
- 2 Quality assurance of surgery in gastric and rectal cancer. [KCMJ Peeters](#), CJH van de Velde. 23  
Crit Rev Oncol Hematol. 2004 Aug;51(2):105-19

### Gastric cancer

- 3 The gastric cancer treatment controversy. CJH van de Velde, [KCMJ Peeters](#). 51  
J Clin Oncol. 2003 Jun 15;21(12):2234-6
- 4 Low maruyama index surgery for gastric cancer: blinded reanalysis of the Dutch D1-D2 trial. [KCMJ Peeters](#), SA Hundahl, E Klein Kranenbarg, H Hartgrink, and CJH van de Velde. 59  
World J Surg. 2005 Dec;29(12):1576-84
- 5 Validation of a nomogram for predicting disease-specific survival after an R0 resection for gastric carcinoma. [KCMJ Peeters](#), MW Kattan, HH Hartgrink, E Klein Kranenbarg, MF Brennan and CJH van de Velde. 73  
Cancer. 2005 Feb 15;103(4):702-7

### Rectal cancer

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Br J Surg. 2005 Feb;92(2):211-6
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J Clin Oncol. 2005 Sep 1;23(25):6199-206.
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Ann Surg. In press



9	Benchmarking the treatment of locally advanced rectal cancer: a comparative analysis of combined modality treatment with the Dutch randomized TME study. RA Klaassen, <a href="#">KCMJ Peeters</a> , MJEM Gosens, HJT Rutten, H Martijn, GAP Nieuwenhuijzen, H van der Berg, ID Nagtegaal, CAM Marijnen, CJH van de Velde. Submitted for publication.	131
<b>Minimal residual disease assessment in sentinel nodes of breast and gastrointestinal cancer</b>		
10	Minimal residual disease assessment in sentinel nodes of breast and gastrointestinal cancer: a plea for standardization. FS Doekhie, <a href="#">KCMJ Peeters</a> , RAEM Tollenaar, CJH van de Velde. Ann Surg Oncol. 2004 Mar-Apr;11(3 Suppl):236S-41S	147
11	General discussion and summary	159
12	Samenvatting	185
	Participating centers D1D2 trial	196
	Participating investigators TME trial	196
	List of publications	201
	Curriculum Vitae	203
	Nawoord	205