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Vulvar cancer : pathogenesis, molecular genetics and treatment

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Title: Vulvar cancer : pathogenesis, molecular genetics and treatment

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Stellingen 'Vulvar cancer: pathogenesis, molecular alterations and treatment'

1. Genetic and epigenetic alterations are more frequently detected in HPV-independent vulvar cancers, mutations in *TP53* being most frequent. *This thesis*
2. Vulvar cancers should be subdivided into three distinct molecular subtypes instead of two, since this might affect clinical outcome. The three subtypes consist of HPV dependent, HPV independent - *TP53* wildtype and HPV independent - *TP53* mutant vulvar cancers. *This thesis*
3. A tumour-free margin of < 8 mm in the primary treatment of vulvar cancer is not an independent prognostic factor for local recurrence and should therefore not be the criterion of whether or not adjuvant treatment is necessary. *This thesis*
4. Debulking of lymph node metastases in the groins is the preferred treatment of choice for patients with clinically suspicious inguinal lymph nodes or macrometastases > 2mm leading to less treatment-related morbidity and no increase in the number of groin recurrences compared to a full inguinofemoral lymphadenectomy. *This thesis*
5. Since the number of studies on treatment of recurrent vulvar cancer is limited, management of recurrent vulvar cancer should be individualized and requires an experienced, multidisciplinary team in a third line referral center. *This thesis*
6. HPV-dependent vulvar cancers have a better recurrence free and overall survival compared to HPV-independent vulvar cancers. *This thesis and McAlpine JN, Histopathology 2017*
7. Als je het antwoord niet weet, kun je altijd nog zeggen dat het epigenetica is.
8. Als je een multidisciplinair behandelteam beoogt te hebben, dan moet je ook elkaars rollen kennen. In ons tijdsgewricht van steeds verdergaande specialisatie is het een must om te weten wat de andere groep doet en om tenminste elkaars taal te spreken.
9. The important thing in science is not so much to obtain new facts as to discover new ways of thinking about them (*Sir William Bragg, 1915*). Dat betekent outside de box kunnen denken en af en toe afstand kunnen nemen: you can't see the whole picture when you are inside the frame.
10. Ik heb het nog nooit gedaan, dus ik denk dat ik het wel kan! (*Pippi Langkous, 1945*). Ik ga in ieder geval mijn uiterste best doen.
11. Success is the ability to go from failure to failure without losing your enthusiasm. (*Winston Churchill, 1955*). Een citaat waarin iedere PhD kandidaat zich in zal herkennen.
12. Everything will be okay in the end. If it's not okay, then it's not the end. *Ed Sheeran, 2011*. Een promotietraject gaat gepaard met vele tegenslagen, maar uiteindelijk komt alles goed.

Linda Nooij
Leiden, 28 juni 2018