Paraoesophageal Hernias: A Surgical Perspective

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asymptomatic paraoesophageal hernias are concerned and although there is yet no consensus regarding the adoption of an operative approach or not, the role of prophylactic paraoesophageal hernia repairs to prevent acute incarceration is limited; careful consideration it can be mostly reserved for patients younger than 75 years of age with a good performance status [5]. In a recent Canadian study, a simulation model comparing prophylactic paraoesophageal hernia repair with watchful waiting concluded that the latter was a superior strategy in 82% of the simulations and that patients with asymptomatic paraoesophageal hernias are more likely to achieve better health outcomes if they are at least initially treated by watchful waiting rather than a prophylactic hernia repair [9].

Some groups advocate that surgery is safe in elderly patients. Parker et al., in a study comparing laparoscopic repair of paraoesophageal hernias in age groups reported that mean length of hospital stay was shorter in the < 70 age group. Major morbidity was

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