2025 Complex General Surgical Oncology

All References



Below you will find the topics and their accompanying references for the 2025 Complex General Surgical Oncology Continuous Certification Assessment. **Diplomates are neither required nor expected to read all of these references before or during the completion of the assessment.** The key references are marked with a yellow star ⭐ below.

Due to limited permissions, we cannot provide full-text links and article PDFs in this reference document, as it is not hosted on a secure browser. Article links in this document will take you to the journal page on PubMed.

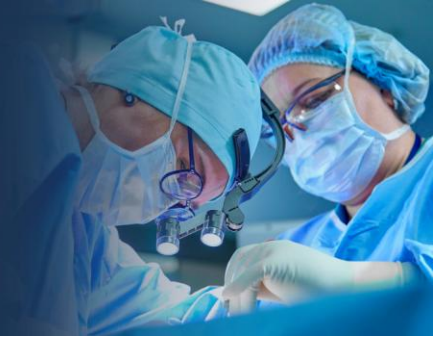
To view full-text articles prior to opening your assessment, please log in to the ABS surgeon portal. **Article links/PDFs will be freely available via the ABS surgeon portal on August 8, 2025.** Additionally, while you are completing your assessment in the exam platform, full-text links/PDFs will be available for all key and additional references.

Breast - Angiosarcoma

- ⭐ Friedrich AU, Reisenbichler ES, Heller DR, et al. Characteristics and long-term risk of breast angiosarcoma. *Ann Surg Oncol.* 2021;28(9):5112-5118. doi:10.1245/s10434-021-09689-2

Breast - Approach to Regional Lymph Nodes Basins

- American College of Surgeons Clinical Research Program. Operative Standards for Cancer Surgery: Breast, Lung, Pancreas, Colon. Vol 1. Wolters Kluwer Health; 2015:16.
- ⭐ Boughey JC, Ballman KV, Le-Petross HT, et al. Identification and resection of clipped node decreases the false-negative rate of sentinel lymph node surgery in patients presenting with node-positive breast cancer (T0-T4, N1-N2) who receive neoadjuvant chemotherapy: results from ACOSOG Z1071 (Alliance). *Ann Surg*. 2016;263(4):802-807. doi:10.1097/SLA.0000000000001375
- Boughey JC, Ballman KV, McCall LM, et al. Tumor biology and response to chemotherapy impact breast cancer-specific survival in node-positive breast cancer patients treated with neoadjuvant chemotherapy: long-term follow-up from ACOSOG Z1071 (Alliance). *Ann Surg*. 2017;266(4):667-676. doi:10.1097/SLA.0000000000002373



Breast - Atypical Lobular Hyperplasia

- ⭐ Bahl M. Management of high-risk breast lesions. *Radiol Clin North Am*. 2021;59(1):29-40. doi:10.1016/j.rcl.2020.08.005
- Resource guide: surgical management of benign or high-risk lesions. The American Society of Breast Surgeons. Published 2024. Accessed February 11, 2025. https://www.breastsurgeons.org/docs/statements/asbrs-rg-high-risk-lesions.pdf

Breast - Male Breast Cancer

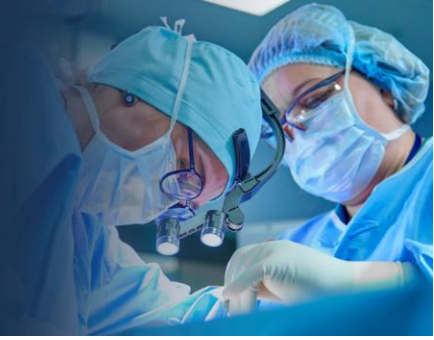
- ⭐ Cardoso F, Bartlett JMS, Slaets L, et al. Characterization of male breast cancer: results of the EORTC 10085/TBCRC/BIG/NABCG International Male Breast Cancer Program. *Ann Oncol*. 2018;29(2):405-417. doi:10.1093/annonc/mdx651
- Giordano SH, Buzdar AU, Hortobagyi GN. Breast cancer in men. *Ann Intern Med*. 2002;137(8):678-687. doi:10.7326/0003-4819-137-8-200210150-00013
- Giordano SH, Cohen DS, Buzdar AU, Perkins G, Hortobagyi GN. Breast carcinoma in men: a population-based study. *Cancer*. 2004;101(1):51-57. doi:10.1002/cncr.20312

Breast - Phyllodes Tumors

- Genco IS, Purohit V, Hackman K, Ferreira L, Tugertimur B, Hajiyeva S. Benign and borderline phyllodes tumors of the breast: clinicopathologic analysis of 205 cases with emphasis on the surgical margin status and local recurrence rate. *Ann Diagn Pathol*. 2021;51:151708. doi:10.1016/j.anndiagpath.2021.151708
- ⭐ Kim YJ, Yun JH, Hong SH, Lee JE, Han SW, Kim SY. Is wide excision really needed? correlation between resection margin and recurrence in benign phyllodes tumors of the breast. *Ann Surg Treat Res*. 2023;105(6):353-359. doi:10.4174/astr.2023.105.6.353

Breast - Triple-negative Breast Cancer

- Barroso-Sousa R, Tolaney SM. Pembrolizumab in the preoperative setting of triple-negative breast cancer: safety and efficacy. *Expert Rev Anticancer Ther.* 2020;20(11):923-930. doi:10.1080/14737140.2020.1823224



- ⭐ Schmid P, Cortes J, Pusztai L, et al. Pembrolizumab for early triple-negative breast cancer. *N Engl J Med*. 2020;382(9):810-821. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa1910549

Colorectal - Rectal Adenocarcinoma

- Ogura A, Konishi T, Cunningham C, et al. Neoadjuvant (chemo)radiotherapy with total mesorectal excision only is not sufficient to prevent lateral local recurrence in enlarged nodes: results of the multicenter lateral node study of patients with low cT3/4 rectal cancer. *J Clin Oncol*. 2019;37(1):33-43. doi:10.1200/JCO.18.00032

- ⭐ Schaap DP, Boogerd LSF, Konishi T, et al. Rectal cancer lateral lymph nodes: multicentre study of the impact of obturator and internal iliac nodes on oncological outcomes. *Br J Surg*. 2021;108(2):205-213. doi:10.1093/bjs/znaa009

Cutaneous - Melanoma

- ⭐ Garbe C, Amaral T, Peris K, et al. European consensus-based interdisciplinary guideline for melanoma. Part 1: Diagnostics - Update 2024. *Eur J Cancer*. 2025;215:115152. doi:10.1016/j.ejca.2024.115152

- Nathan P, Hassel JC, Rutkowski P, et al. Overall survival benefit with tebentafusp in metastatic uveal melanoma. *N Engl J Med*. 2021;385(13):1196-1206. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa2103485

- ⭐ Pelczar P, Kosteczko P, Wieczorek E, Kwieciński M, Kozłowska A, Gil-Kulik P. Melanoma in pregnancy-diagnosis, treatment, and consequences for fetal development and the maintenance of pregnancy. *Cancers (Basel)*. 2024;16(12):2173. doi:10.3390/cancers16122173

- Sepehr A, Chao E, Trefrey B, et al. Long-term outcome of Spitz-type melanocytic tumors. *Arch Dermatol*. 2011;147(10):1173-1179. doi:10.1001/archdermatol.2011.170

- ⭐ Zager JS, Orloff M, Ferrucci PF, et al. Efficacy and safety of the melphalan/hepatic delivery system in patients with unresectable metastatic uveal melanoma: results from an open-label, single-arm, multicenter phase 3 study [published correction appears in *Ann Surg Oncol*. 2024 Nov;31(12):8262-8263. doi: 10.1245/s10434-024-15886-6.]. *Ann Surg Oncol*. 2024;31(8):5340-5351. doi:10.1245/s10434-024-15293-x



Cutaneous - Merkel Cell Carcinoma

- Cook M, Baker K, Redman M, et al. Differential outcomes among immunosuppressed patients with Merkel cell carcinoma: impact of immunosuppression type on cancer-specific and overall survival. *Am J Clin Oncol*. 2019;42(1):82-88. doi:10.1097/COC.0000000000000482
- Teke ME, Rossi AJ, Hernandez JM, Gastman B. Pembrolizumab compared with standard-of-care observation in treating patients with completely resected stage I-III Merkel cell cancer (STAMP). *Ann Surg Oncol*. 2022;29(6):3379-3380. doi:10.1245/s10434-022-11498-0
- ⭐ Yacoub I, Rayn K, Choi JI, et al. The role of radiation, immunotherapy, and chemotherapy in the management of locally advanced or metastatic cutaneous malignancies. *Cancers (Basel)*. 2024;16(23):3920. doi:10.3390/cancers16233920

Endocrine - Adrenalectomy

- ⭐ Yip L, Duh QY, Wachtel H, et al. American Association of Endocrine Surgeons guidelines for adrenalectomy: executive summary. *JAMA Surg.* 2022;157(10):870-877. doi:10.1001/jamasurg.2022.3544

Endocrine - Medullary Thyroid Carcinoma

- ⭐ Wells SA Jr, Asa SL, Dralle H, et al. Revised American Thyroid Association guidelines for the management of medullary thyroid carcinoma. *Thyroid*. 2015;25(6):567-610. doi:10.1089/thy.2014.0335

Endocrine - Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumors – Non-functional

- ⭐ Heidsma CM, Engelsman AF, van Dieren S, et al. Watchful waiting for small non-functional pancreatic neuroendocrine tumours: nationwide prospective cohort study (PANDORA). *Br J Surg*. 2021;108(8):888-891. doi:10.1093/bjs/znab088

Hepatopancreatobiliary - Adenocarcinoma

- Bridgewater J, Fletcher P, Palmer DH, et al. Long-term outcomes and exploratory analyses of the randomized phase III BILCAP study. *J Clin Oncol.* 2022;40(18):2048-2057. doi:10.1200/JCO.21.02568



- ⭐ Shroff RT, Kennedy EB, Bachini M, et al. Adjuvant therapy for resected biliary tract cancer: ASCO clinical practice guideline. *J Clin Oncol.* 2019;37(12):1015-1027. doi:10.1200/JCO.18.02178

Hepatopancreatobiliary - Cholangiocarcinoma

- ⭐ Primrose JN, Fox RP, Palmer DH, et al. Capecitabine compared with observation in resected biliary tract cancer (BILCAP): a randomised, controlled, multicentre, phase 3 study [published correction appears in *Lancet Oncol*. 2019 May;20(5):e242. doi: 10.1016/S1470-2045(19)30216-5.]. *Lancet Oncol.* 2019;20(5):663-673. doi:10.1016/S1470-2045(18)30915-X

- Shroff RT, Kennedy EB, Bachini M, et al. Adjuvant therapy for resected biliary tract cancer: ASCO clinical practice guideline. *J Clin Oncol.* 2019;37(12):1015-1027. doi:10.1200/JCO.18.02178

Hepatopancreatobiliary - Colorectal Liver Metastases

- ⭐ Adam R, Piedvache C, Chiche L, et al. Liver transplantation plus chemotherapy versus chemotherapy alone in patients with permanently unresectable colorectal liver metastases (TransMet): results from a multicentre, open-label, prospective, randomised controlled trial. *Lancet.* 2024;404(10458):1107-1118. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(24)01595-2

- ⭐ Bond MJG, Bolhuis K, Loosveld OJL, et al. First-line systemic treatment strategies in patients with initially unresectable colorectal cancer liver metastases (CAIRO5): an open-label, multicentre, randomised, controlled, phase 3 study from the Dutch Colorectal Cancer Group. *Lancet Oncol.* 2023;24(7):757-771. doi:10.1016/S1470-2045(23)00219-X

- Bonney GK, Chew CA, Lodge P, et al. Liver transplantation for non-resectable colorectal liver metastases: the International Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association consensus guidelines [published correction appears in *Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2021 Nov;6(11):e7. doi: 10.1016/S2468-1253(21)00345-9.]. *Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2021;6(11):933-946. doi:10.1016/S2468-1253(21)00219-3

- Datta J, Narayan RR, Kemeny NE, D'Angelica MI. Role of hepatic artery infusion chemotherapy in treatment of initially unresectable colorectal liver metastases: a review. *JAMA Surg.* 2019;154(8):768-776. doi:10.1001/jamasurg.2019.1694

- Morris VK, Kennedy EB, Baxter NN, et al. Treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer: ASCO guideline. *J Clin Oncol.* 2023;41(3):678-700. doi:10.1200/JCO.22.01690



- ⭐ van der Lei S, Puijk RS, Dijkstra M, et al. Thermal ablation versus surgical resection of small-size colorectal liver metastases (COLLISION): an international, randomised, controlled, phase 3 non-inferiority trial. *Lancet Oncol.* 2025;26(2):187-199. doi:10.1016/S1470-2045(24)00660-0

Hepatopancreatobiliary - Gallbladder Polyps

- ⭐ Foley KG, Lahaye MJ, Thoeni RF, et al. Management and follow-up of gallbladder polyps: updated joint guidelines between the ESGAR, EAES, EFISDS and ESGE. *Eur Radiol*. 2022;32(5):3358-3368. doi:10.1007/s00330-021-08384-w
- Ji SG, Juran BD, Mucha S, et al. Genome-wide association study of primary sclerosing cholangitis identifies new risk loci and quantifies the genetic relationship with inflammatory bowel disease. *Nat Genet*. 2017;49(2):269-273. doi:10.1038/ng.3745

Hepatopancreatobiliary - Hemangioma

- ⭐ Townsend JCM, Beauchamp RD, Evers BM, Mattox KL. Chapter 54: The liver. *Sabiston Textbook of Surgery*. 21st ed. Elsevier;2022:1464.

Hepatopancreatobiliary - Hepatocellular Carcinoma

- ⭐ Qin S, Chen M, Cheng AL, et al. Atezolizumab plus bevacizumab versus active surveillance in patients with resected or ablated high-risk hepatocellular carcinoma (IMbrave050): a randomised, open-label, multicentre, phase 3 trial. *Lancet*. 2023;402(10415):1835-1847. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(23)01796-8

Hepatopancreatobiliary - Locally Advanced Pancreatic Cancer

- Eshmuminov D, Aminjonov B, Palm RF, et al. FOLFIRINOX or gemcitabine-based chemotherapy for borderline resectable and locally advanced pancreatic cancer: a multi-institutional, patient-level, meta-analysis and systematic review. *Ann Surg Oncol*. 2023;30(7):4417-4428. doi:10.1245/s10434-023-13353-2
- ⭐ Suker M, Beumer BR, Sadot E, et al. FOLFIRINOX for locally advanced pancreatic cancer: a systematic review and patient-level meta-analysis. *Lancet Oncol*. 2016;17(6):801-810. doi:10.1016/S1470-2045(16)00172-8



Hepatopancreatobiliary - Pancreas Adenocarcinoma

- ⭐ Katz MHG, Shi Q, Meyers J, et al. Efficacy of preoperative mFOLFIRINOX vs mFOLFIRINOX plus hypofractionated radiotherapy for borderline resectable adenocarcinoma of the pancreas: the A021501 phase 2 randomized clinical trial. *JAMA Oncol*. 2022;8(9):1263-1270. doi:10.1001/jamaoncol.2022.2319

Hepatopancreatobiliary - Serous Cystadenoma

- ⭐ Katz MH, Mortenson MM, Wang H, et al. Diagnosis and management of cystic neoplasms of the pancreas: an evidence-based approach. *J Am Coll Surg*. 2008;207(1):106-120. doi:10.1016/j.jamcollsurg.2007.12.048

Hepatopancreatobiliary - Solid Pseudopapillary Tumors

- ⭐ Law JK, Ahmed A, Singh VK, et al. A systematic review of solid-pseudopapillary neoplasms: are these rare lesions?. *Pancreas*. 2014;43(3):331-337. doi:10.1097/MPA.0000000000000061

Miscellaneous Medical Knowledge - Design and Purpose of Phase I, II, and III Clinical Trials

- Ben-Eltriki M, Rafiq A, Paul A, et al. Adaptive designs in clinical trials: a systematic review-part I. *BMC Med Res Methodol*. 2024;24(1):229.doi:10.1186/s12874-024-02272-9
- Bhatt DL, Mehta C. Adaptive designs for clinical trials. *N Engl J Med*. 2016;375(1):65-74. doi:10.1056/NEJMra1510061
- Schultz A, Saville BR, Marsh JA, Snelling TL. An introduction to clinical trial design. *Paediatr Respir Rev*. 2019;32:30-35. doi:10.1016/j.prrv.2019.06.002
- ⭐ U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Adaptive designs for clinical trials of drugs and biologics guidance for industry. Published December 2019. Accessed February 11, 2025. https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/adaptive-design-clinical-trials-drugs-and-biologics-guidance-industry



Miscellaneous Medical Knowledge - External-Beam Radiation Therapy

- ⭐ Meattini I, Marrazzo L, Saieva C, et al. Accelerated partial-breast irradiation compared with whole-breast irradiation for early breast cancer: long-term results of the randomized phase III APBI-IMRT-Florence trial. *J Clin Oncol*. 2020;38(35):4175-4183. doi:10.1200/JCO.20.00650

Miscellaneous Medical Knowledge - Health Equity/Disparities

- ⭐ Brawley OW, Lansey DG. Disparities in breast cancer outcomes and how to resolve them. *Hematol Oncol Clin North Am*. 2023;37(1):1-15. doi:10.1016/j.hoc.2022.08.002

- ⭐ Finn CB, Wirtalla C, Roberts SE, et al. Comparison of simulated outcomes of colorectal cancer surgery at the highest-performing vs chosen local hospitals. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2023;6(2):e2255999. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.55999

Miscellaneous Medical Knowledge - Quality Improvement

- ⭐ Molenaar CJL, Minnella EM, Coca-Martinez M, et al. Effect of multimodal prehabilitation on reducing postoperative complications and enhancing functional capacity following colorectal cancer surgery: the PREHAB randomized clinical trial [published correction appears in *JAMA Surg*. 2023 Jun 1;158(6):675. doi: 10.1001/jamasurg.2023.1553.]. *JAMA Surg*. 2023;158(6):572-581. doi:10.1001/jamasurg.2023.0198

Peritoneal Malignancy - Appendiceal Adenocarcinoma

- ⭐ Shen JP, Yousef AM, Zeineddine FA, et al. Efficacy of systemic chemotherapy in patients with low-grade mucinous appendiceal adenocarcinoma: a randomized crossover trial. *JAMA Netw Open.* 2023;6(6):e2316161. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.16161

Peritoneal Malignancy - Mesothelioma

- Fennell DA, Ewings S, Ottensmeier C, et al. Nivolumab versus placebo in patients with relapsed malignant mesothelioma (CONFIRM): a multicentre, double-blind, randomised, phase 3 trial. *Lancet Oncol*. 2021;22(11):1530-1540. doi:10.1016/S1470-2045(21)00471-X



- ⭐ Marmarelis ME, Wang X, Roshkovan L, et al. Clinical outcomes associated with pembrolizumab monotherapy among adults with diffuse malignant peritoneal mesothelioma. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2023;6(3):e232526. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.2526

Peritoneal Malignancy - Ovarian Cancer

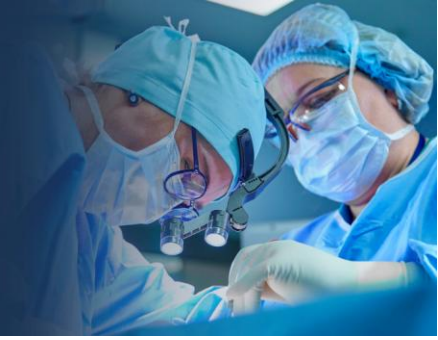
- ⭐ Classe JM, Meeus P, Hudry D, et al. Hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy for recurrent ovarian cancer (CHIPOR): a randomised, open-label, phase 3 trial. *Lancet Oncol*. 2024;25(12):1551-1562. doi:10.1016/S1470-2045(24)00531-X
- van Driel WJ, Koole SN, Sikorska K, et al. Hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy in ovarian cancer. *N Engl J Med*. 2018;378(3):230-240. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa1708618

Sarcoma - Leiomyosarcoma

- ⭐ Pautier P, Italiano A, Piperno-Neumann S, et al. Doxorubicin-trabectedin with trabectedin maintenance in leiomyosarcoma. *N Engl J Med*. 2024;391(9):789-799. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa2403394
- Tirotta F, Hodson J, Parente A, et al. Liver resection for sarcoma metastases: a systematic review and experience from two European centres. *Eur J Surg Oncol*. 2020;46(10 Pt A):1807-1813. doi:10.1016/j.ejso.2020.05.024
- Tseng WW, Swallow CJ, Strauss DC, et al. Management of locally recurrent retroperitoneal sarcoma in the adult: an updated consensus approach from the Transatlantic Australasian Retroperitoneal Sarcoma Working Group. *Ann Surg Oncol*. 2022;29(12):7335-7348. doi:10.1245/s10434-022-11864-y

Sarcoma - Myxofibrosarcoma

- ⭐ Borghi A, Gronchi A. Extremity and truncal soft tissue sarcoma: risk assessment and multidisciplinary management. *Semin Radiat Oncol*. 2024;34(2):147-163. doi:10.1016/j.semradonc.2023.12.001
- Sanfilippo R, Hindi N, Cruz Jurado J, et al. Effectiveness and safety of trabectedin and radiotherapy for patients with myxoid liposarcoma: a nonrandomized clinical trial. *JAMA Oncol*. 2023;9(5):656-663. doi:10.1001/jamaoncol.2023.0056
- Tyler R, Wanigasooriya K, Taniere P, et al. A review of retroperitoneal liposarcoma genomics. *Cancer Treat Rev*. 2020;86:102013. doi:10.1016/j.ctrv.2020.102013



Sarcoma - Nerve Sheath Tumors

- Gross AM, Wolters PL, Dombi E, et al. Selumetinib in children with inoperable plexiform neurofibromas [published correction appears in *N Engl J Med*. 2020 Sep 24;383(13):1290. doi: 10.1056/NEJMx200013.]. *N Engl J Med*. 2020;382(15):1430-1442. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa1912735

- ⭐ James AW, Shurell E, Singh A, Dry SM, Eilber FC. Malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumor. *Surg Oncol Clin N Am*. 2016;25(4):789-802. doi:10.1016/j.soc.2016.05.009

Thoracic - Esophageal/Gastric Cancer

- Al-Batran SE, Homann N, Pauligk C, et al. Perioperative chemotherapy with fluorouracil plus leucovorin, oxaliplatin, and docetaxel versus fluorouracil or capecitabine plus cisplatin and epirubicin for locally advanced, resectable gastric or gastro-oesophageal junction adenocarcinoma (FLOT4): a randomised, phase 2/3 trial. *Lancet*. 2019;393(10184):1948-1957. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(18)32557-1

- ⭐ Hoeppner J, Brunner T, Schmoor C, et al. Perioperative chemotherapy or preoperative chemoradiotherapy in esophageal cancer. *N Engl J Med*. 2025;392(4):323-335. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa2409408

- Leong T, Smithers BM, Michael M, et al. Preoperative chemoradiotherapy for resectable gastric cancer. *N Engl J Med*. 2024;391(19):1810-1821. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa2405195

- Reynolds JV, Preston SR, O'Neill B, et al. Trimodality therapy versus perioperative chemotherapy in the management of locally advanced adenocarcinoma of the oesophagus and oesophagogastric junction (Neo-AEGIS): an open-label, randomised, phase 3 trial. *Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2023;8(11):1015-1027. doi:10.1016/S2468-1253(23)00243-1

Upper Gastrointestinal - Gastric Outlet Obstruction

- ⭐ Bronswijk M, Vanella G, van Wanrooij RLJ, Arcidiacono PG, Van der Merwe S. Role of EUS-guided gastrointestinal anastomosis for gastric outlet obstruction, endoscopic access and enteric decompression. *Tech Innov Gastrointest Endosc*. 2025;250915. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tige.2025.250915.



- Orr J, Lockwood R, Gamboa A, Slaughter JC, Obstein KL, Yachimski P. Enteral stents for malignant gastric outlet obstruction: low reintervention rates for obstruction due to pancreatic adenocarcinoma versus other etiologies. *J Gastrointest Surg*. 2021;25(3):720-727. doi:10.1007/s11605-019-04512-6

- Perez-Miranda M, Tyberg A, Poletto D, et al. EUS-guided gastrojejunostomy versus laparoscopic gastrojejunostomy: an international collaborative study. *J Clin Gastroenterol*. 2017;51(10):896-899. doi:10.1097/MCG.0000000000000887

Upper Gastrointestinal - Malignant Bowel Obstruction

- ⭐ Krouse RS, Anderson GL, Arnold KB, et al. Surgical versus non-surgical management for patients with malignant bowel obstruction (S1316): a pragmatic comparative effectiveness trial [published correction appears in *Lancet* Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2024 Feb;9(2):e2. doi: 10.1016/S2468-1253(23)00459-4.]. *Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2023;8(10):908-918. doi:10.1016/S2468-1253(23)00191-7