

# MAKING TOTAL GASTRECTOMY TEXTBOOK: OPTIMIZING NODE HARVEST AND SECURING NEGATIVE MARGINS

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## OBJECTIVE

Textbook outcome (TO) consolidates essential perioperative quality targets into a single measure. For total gastrectomy (TG), achieving TO depends largely on oncologic quality. This study evaluates TO after TG and quantifies how optimizing lymph node harvest and securing negative margins contribute to success.

We evaluated perioperative quality after total gastrectomy using a prespecified textbook outcome framework, with emphasis on margin negativity and lymph-node yield.

## METHODS

Single-center retrospective cohort of consecutive curative-intent total gastrectomy.

Abandoned procedures including irresectable and metastatic were excluded, yielding 36 completed cases.

TO was prespecified as concurrent achievement of: R0 resection, lymph-node yield  $\geq 15$ , no Clavien-Dindo  $\geq III$ , no 30-day mortality, no reoperation, and no 30-day readmission.

Outcomes are reported as n/N (%) with 95% confidence intervals (CIs) where relevant.

## RESULTS

Median lymph-node yield was 18 (IQR 12–23), with 22/36 (61.1%) reaching  $\geq 15$  nodes. Margin status showed R0 in 30/36 (83.3%) and R1 in 6/36 (16.7%). Major complications were uncommon (2.8%). Thirty-day mortality rate was 0, with 1 reoperation and no readmissions at 30 or 90 days. The composite textbook outcome was achieved in 19/36 (52.8%)

TABLE 1. Lymph Node Yield Summary

Measure	Value
Median lymph-node yield	18
Interquartile range (IQR)	12-23
$\geq 15$ nodes (adequate yield)	22 / 36 (61.1 %)
< 15 nodes (inadequate yield)	14 / 36 (38.9 %)

TABLE 2. Margin Status

Margin Type	n/N	%
R0 (negative)	30 / 36	83.3 %
R1 (positive)	6 / 36	16.7 %

TABLE 3. Postoperative Morbidity and Mortality

Outcome	n/N	%
Major complication (Clavien-Dindo $\geq III$ )	1 / 36	2.78 %
30-day mortality	0 / 36	0 %
Reoperation within 30 days	1 / 36	2.78 %
Readmission within 30 days	0 / 36	0 %

TABLE 4. Composite Textbook Outcome Achievement

Status	n/N	%
Achieved textbook outcome	19 / 36	52.8 %
Not achieved	17 / 36	47.2 %

## Lymph Node Yield

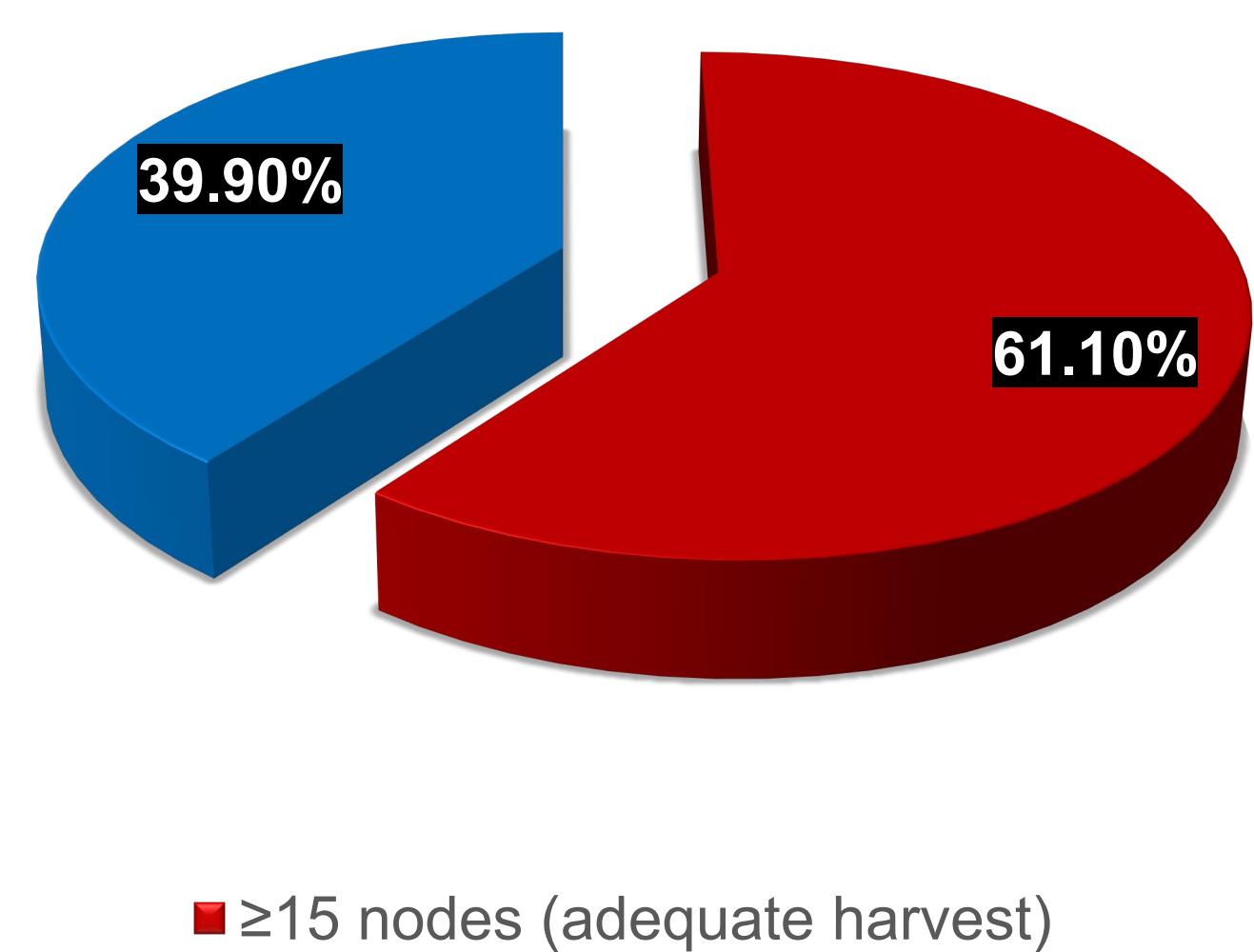


Fig 1: Lymph Node Yield

## Rates of Margin Negativity, and Nodal Yield

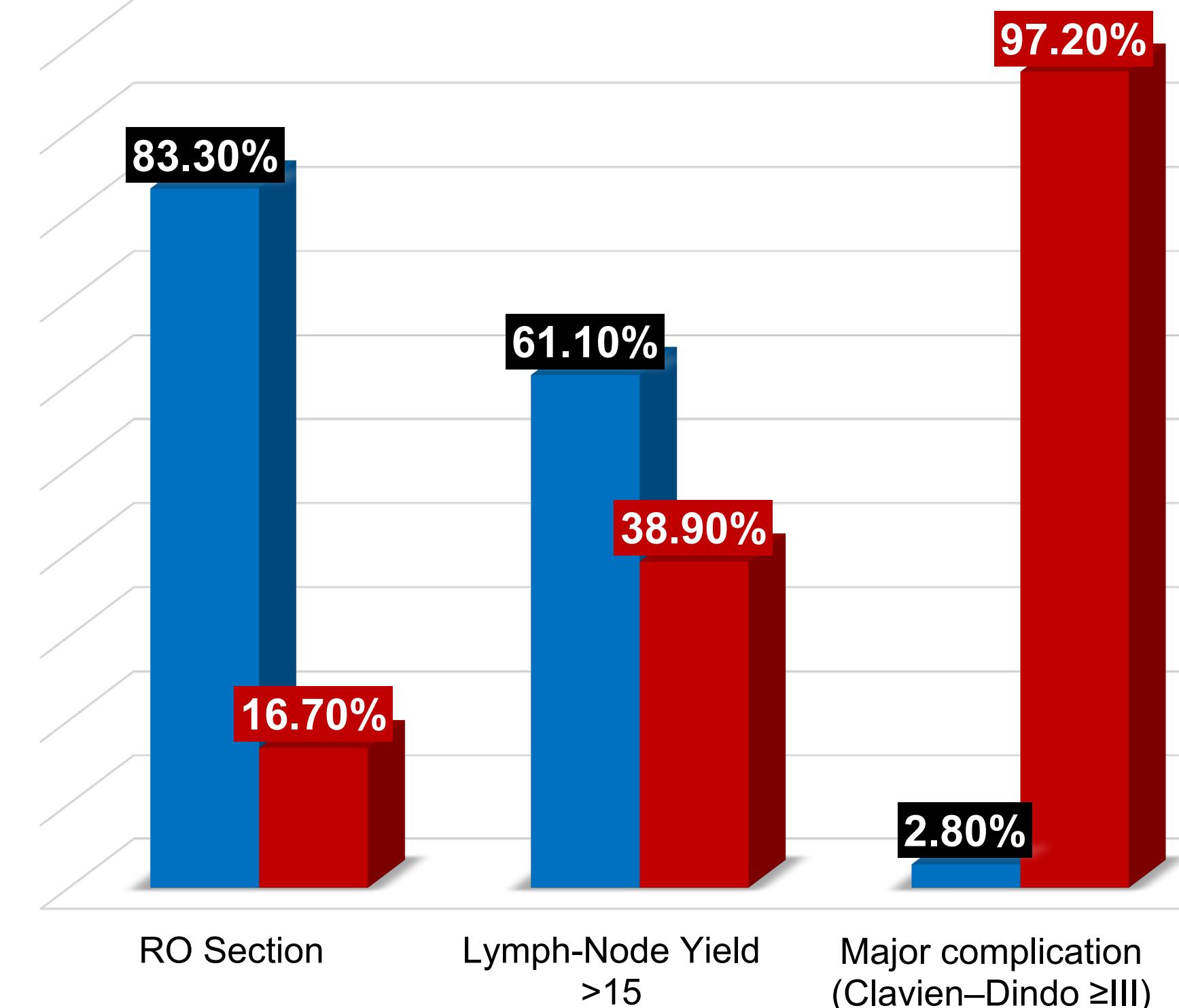


Fig 2: Rates of Margin Negativity and Nodal Yield

## CONCLUSION

Total gastrectomy at this center demonstrated high margin negativity (R0 83.3%), low major morbidity, and excellent short-term safety (1 reoperation, no 30-day deaths, or readmissions). Over half of patients achieved the composite TO (52.8%). Increasing the proportion achieving lymph-node yield  $\geq 15$  while sustaining current margin and safety performance represents the principal opportunity for further improvement.

