



# DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

## FACULTY OF MEDICINE

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### Barriers to Transanal Endoscopic Microsurgery in Canada Survey

We are researchers from the Department of General Surgery at Dalhousie University conducting a study pertaining to the management of rectal neoplasms. The purpose of our study is to identify any potential barriers to transanal endoscopic microsurgery referral in Canada. Participation in this study is completely voluntary. Please only respond to this survey if you perform colonoscopy as part of your elective practice. By answering this survey, you are providing implied consent to be a participant in our study. All participant answers will be anonymous. This project has been approved by NSHA REB. Please answer the following questions truthfully and to the best of your ability. This survey will take approximately 5 minutes to complete. Thank you for taking the time to participate in our study.

#### Demographics (choose one response):

**Do you perform colonoscopy?**

\* must provide value

☐ Yes

☐ No

reset

**Are you a gastroenterologist or a surgeon  
endoscopist?**

☐ Gastroenterologist

☐ Surgeon Endoscopist

reset

**How long have you been in practice?**

☐ < 5 years

☐ 5-10 years

☐ 11-20 years

☐ >20 years

reset

|                                                      |                                                                                               |       |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| What is your province/territory of primary practice? | <div></div>                                                                                   |       |
| What is your setting of practice?                    | <div><div></div> Academic</div> <div><div></div> Community</div> <div><div></div> Rural</div> | reset |
| How many colonoscopies do you perform per year?      | <div><div></div> 0-100</div> <div><div></div> 101-400</div> <div><div></div> &gt;400</div>    | reset |
| Are you trained in TEM/TAMIS?                        | <div><div></div> Yes</div> <div><div></div> No</div>                                          | reset |
| Do you perform TEM/TAMIS surgery?                    | <div><div></div> Yes</div> <div><div></div> No</div>                                          | reset |

**TEM indications and advantages (choose one response):**

**How confident are you in your knowledge of the accepted indications for TEM?**

- ☐ Very confident - I am quite familiar with the accepted indications
- ☐ Confident - I know most of the accepted indications
- ☐ Somewhat confident - I know some general indications
- ☐ Not confident - I am unsure of the indications

[reset](#)

**How well do you know the advantages of TEM compared with transanal excision?**

- ☐ Very well - I am quite familiar with the advantages
- ☐ Well - I know most of the advantages
- ☐ Somewhat well - I know some of the advantages
- ☐ Poor - I am unsure about the advantages

[reset](#)

**How does TEM excision compare to radical resection for T1 rectal cancer in terms of local recurrence?**

- ☐ Much higher local recurrence rates
- ☐ Similar local recurrence rates
- ☐ Much lower local recurrence rates
- ☐ Unsure

[reset](#)

**How does TEM excision compare to radical resection for T1 rectal cancer in terms of overall survival:**

- ☐ Better overall survival
- ☐ No difference in overall survival
- ☐ Worse overall survival
- ☐ Unsure

[reset](#)

### TEM referral (choose one response):

**For patients with suspected or clear indications for TEM, how often do you refer them to a TEM surgeon?**

- ☐ Never (0-25%)
- ☐ Sometimes (26-50%)
- ☐ Most of the time (51-80%)
- ☐ Almost always (>80%)

reset

**For patients with unclear indications for TEM, how often do you refer them to a TEM surgeon for an opinion?**

- ☐ Never (0-25%)
- ☐ Sometimes (26-50%)
- ☐ Most of the time (51-80%)
- ☐ Almost always (>80%)

reset

**How far is the nearest TEM surgeon from your location of practice?**

- ☐ Same city
- ☐ Different city less than 1 hour drive away
- ☐ Different city greater than 1 hour drive away
- ☐ Different province
- ☐ Unsure

reset

**How comfortable are you with referring eligible patients to TEM surgeons?**

- ☐ Very comfortable
- ☐ Somewhat comfortable
- ☐ Hesitant
- ☐ Not at all comfortable

reset

**For each statement below regarding potential barriers to TEM-referral, please indicate whether you agree or disagree on the scale provided:**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Strongly Agree        | Agree                 | Neutral               | Disagree              | Strongly Disagree     | Not applicable        |                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| I forget about TEM at times                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <a href="#">reset</a>         |
| I am unsure of the specific indications for TEM and thus do not want to refer erroneously                                                                                                                                                 | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <a href="#">reset</a>         |
| I am unsure whether the lesion would be technically removable by TEM                                                                                                                                                                      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <a href="#">reset</a>         |
| I am unsure as to who performs TEM in my area                                                                                                                                                                                             | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <a href="#">reset</a>         |
| No TEM available in my area                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <a href="#">reset</a>         |
| Patient preference (i.e. patient refuses to travel, patient prefers gold-standard treatment options, etc)                                                                                                                                 | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <a href="#">reset</a>         |
| I prefer other modalities such as SMR/EMR                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <a href="#">reset</a>         |
| I am a gastroenterologist. I refer patients to a colorectal/general surgeon who ultimately will decide what operation is best - I leave it to their judgement to decide whether the patient should specifically see a TEM-trained surgeon | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <a href="#">reset</a>         |
| I am a surgeon, not practicing TEM. I prefer to remove these lesions myself with the resources I have available to me                                                                                                                     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <a href="#">reset</a>         |
| Are there any other barriers to TEM-referral that you can think of from the perspective of the referring physician? Please explain.                                                                                                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       | <div></div> <div>Expand</div> |

For each statement below regarding potential enablers of TEM-referral, please indicate whether you agree or disagree on the scale provided.

|                                                                                                                                         | Strongly Agree        | Agree                 | Neutral               | Disagree              | Strongly Disagree     | Not applicable        |                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| TEM research or information about TEM has been the topic of a session at a conference/workshop that I have attended in the past 5 years | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <a href="#">reset</a>                   |
| TEM is regularly discussed as a viable option for patients amongst my peers                                                             | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <a href="#">reset</a>                   |
| TEM surgeons are easily accessible in my area                                                                                           | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <a href="#">reset</a>                   |
| Are there any other enablers to TEM-referral that you can think of from the perspective of the referring physician? Please explain.     |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       | <div><div></div><div>Expand</div></div> |

**For each statement below regarding potential barriers to TEM access, please indicate whether you agree or disagree on the scale provided.**

|                                                                                                                             | Strongly Agree        | Agree                 | Neutral               | Disagree              | Strongly Disagree     | Not applicable        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| I was unable to convince my institution to invest in TEM/TAMIS equipment                                                    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I faced many difficulties in convincing my institution to invest in TEM equipment                                           | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I faced many difficulties in convincing my institution to invest in TAMIS equipment                                         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I faced many difficulties getting privileges at my institution to practice TEM/TAMIS                                        | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I feel there is a lack of educational resources for referring physicians regarding the option of TEM                        | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Are there any other barriers to TEM-referral that you can think of from the perspective of the TEM surgeon? Please explain. |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |

For each statement below regarding potential enablers to TEM access please indicate whether you agree or disagree on the scale provided.

|                                                                                                                             | Strongly Agree        | Agree                 | Neutral               | Disagree              | Strongly Disagree     | Not applicable        |                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| I work at an institution that already had TEM equipment available                                                           | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <a href="#">reset</a>  |
| I feel that referring physicians take optimal advantage of the availability of TEM                                          | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <a href="#">reset</a>  |
| There appears to be significant demand for TEM in my area from referring physicians                                         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <a href="#">reset</a>  |
| There appears to be significant demand for TEM in my area from patients                                                     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <a href="#">reset</a>  |
| Are there any other enablers to TEM-referral that you can think of from the perspective of the TEM surgeon? Please explain. | <div></div>           |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       | <a href="#">Expand</a> |