Abstract: Following the first successful gastric resection for gastric cancer by Theodor Billroth in 1881 surgery has made tremendous progress leading to improved surgical mortality and morbidity. However, while treatment of early gastric cancer is frequently curative, 5-year survival rates for advanced gastric cancer remain dismal despite the application of perioperative multimodal treatment concepts. In this article we will outline key clinical trials that have lead to an improvement in treatment of gastric cancer patients with specific emphasis on the last 20 years. We will then outline recent concepts and key clinical trials that are currently being conducted in the field. Finally we will outline open questions that remain to be elucidated in the future.
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