Abstract:
The intraoperative performance of both laparoscopy and flexible endoscopy is significantly more demanding than the isolated procedure. Accordingly, the technical environment has to be as user-friendly as possible to facilitate combined procedures. Beyond of well equipped video endoscopy and video laparoscopy units, the interventional OR must also provide enough space for positioning of both teams and their equipment, not only for upper GI but also for procedures in the lower abdomen. Boom systems appear currently most appropriate. Industrial companies should be encouraged to further develop integrated OR systems, including not only the laparoscopical facilities but also the environment for flexible endoscopy. Moreover, staff training and organizational aspects in providing and mending the equipment play a major role for a successful use of combined interventions. Overall, the practical application of combined endocavitary/ endoluminal intervention is characterized by a considerable potential of optimization. With the comprehensive use of new medical technologies such as navigation, image fusion, intraoperative diagnostic work-up (e.g. lymph node mapping) significant progress towards a limited, customized treatment could be expected.