

Reviewer's code: 00214267

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

well written mini review

REPLY: thank you.

Reviewer's code: 00504545

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a good paper that clearly describes the indications to apply in obstructive tumors of the main biliary tree using the RFA technique, through endoscopic route by ERCP procedure. Includes also an excellent review of several studies including a good number of patients. The paper is well written and has a good English.

REPLY: thank you.

Reviewer's code: 03656606

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Most cases of malignant biliary obstruction occur in patients with pancreatic or biliary carcinoma, which often could not be resected due to the delayed diagnosis. Palliative treatment is important to improve survival and life quality of these patients. Biliary stenting is an effective method to treat malignant biliary obstruction, but stent occlusion may happen after stent deployment. Several reports showed that intraductal RFA may maintain the patency of biliary stent. This review assessed the efficacy of intraductal RFA on malignant biliary obstruction. In general, the included studies showed beneficial effect on survival and stent patency with RFA, although these studies had some drawbacks. This manuscript is interesting, which introduced RFA technique, listed the indications of RFA, and summarized the utility of this method in patients with malignant biliary obstruction. It provided useful information for clinicians to treat

patients with malignant biliary obstruction.

REPLY: thank you.

Reviewer's code: 02577402

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this MS, the authors reviewed RFA and malignant biliary stricture. Some problems existed. 1. The language needs to be improved because of some grammar mistakes. 2.

Use of abbreviations: When using abbreviations, the full phrase should be given at the first time of use. For example, radiofrequency ablation (RFA). Later, you can always use the abbreviation without mentioning the full phrase. However, the authors did not abide by this rule all the time. In the Abstract, the authors used RFA without mentioning the full phrase. In the text, the authors used "radiofrequency ablation (RFA)" and "Malignant biliary obstruction (MBO)" again and again. Some abbreviations were used without giving the full phrase at the first time of use. For example, ERCP, RCT. Please check the whole article and correct all similar problems. 3. The authors used a table in the text but without citing the table in the text.

REPLY: Thank you for your review and suggestions. We provide a "checked" version of manuscript with a more correct use of abbreviations alongside with a properly written English form. Unfortunately, I have to underline that table 1 inserted in the manuscript is extensively cited in the text: "Table 1 summarizes..."