**Name of Journal: *World Journal of Clinical Cases***

**Manuscript NO: 46558**

**Manuscript Type: MINIREVIEWs**

**Radiation therapy for extrahepatic bile duct cancer: current evidences and future perspectives**

Koo T *et al*. Radiotherapy for extrahepatic bile duct cancer

Taeryool Koo, Hae Jin Park, Kyubo Kim

**Taeryool Koo**, Department of Radiation Oncology, Hallym University Sacred Heart Hospital, Anyang 14068, South Korea

**Hae Jin Park**, Department of Radiation Oncology, Hanyang University College of Medicine, Seoul 04763, South Korea

**Kyubo Kim**, Department of Radiation Oncology, Ewha Womans University College of Medicine, Seoul 07985, South Korea

**ORCID number**: Taeryool Koo (0000-0002-6646-0937); Hae Jin Park (0000-0003-3891-8952); Kyubo Kim (0000-0001-6093-1294).

**Author contributions**: Kim K concepted and designed the study; Koo T and Park HJ reviewed and analyzed literature, and drafted the manuscript. All authors contributed to critical revision and editing, and approval of the final version.

**Conflict-of-interest statement**: No potential conflicts of interest. No financial support.

**Open-Access:** This article is an open-access article which was selected by an in-house editor and fully peer-reviewed by external reviewers. It is distributed in accordance with the Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial (CC BY-NC 4.0) license, which permits others to distribute, remix, adapt, build upon this work non-commercially, and license their derivative works on different terms, provided the original work is properly cited and the use is non-commercial. See: http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/

**Manuscript source:** Invited manuscript

**Corresponding author: Kyubo Kim, MD, PhD, Associate Professor,** Department of Radiation Oncology, Ewha Womans University College of Medicine, 1071 Anyangcheon-ro, Yangcheon-gu, Seoul 07985, South Korea. kyubokim.ro@gmail.com

**Telephone:** +82-2-2650-5334

**Fax:** +82-2-2654-0363

**Received:** February 21, 2019

**Peer-review started:** February 22, 2019

**First decision:** March 29, 2019

**Revised:** April 2, 2019

**Accepted:** April 18, 2019

**Article in press:** April 19, 2019

**Published online:** June 6, 2019

**Abstract**

Extrahepatic bile duct cancer (EBDC) is a rare malignancy that involves neoplastic changes extending from both hepatic ducts to the common bile duct. The treatment of choice is surgical resection, but the predominant pattern of initial treatment failure is locoregional recurrence. Accordingly, adjuvant radiotherapy has been administered after surgical resection based on these rationales. At this time, there is minimal evidence supporting adjuvant radiotherapy, because there have been no phase III trials evaluating its benefit. Relatively small retrospective studies have tried to compare outcomes associated with EBDC treated with or without radiotherapy. We aimed to review studies investigating adjuvant radiotherapy for resected EBDC. Because less than one-third of EBDC cases are amenable to curative resection at diagnosis, other locoregional treatment modalities need to be considered, including radiotherapy. The next aim of this review was to summarize reports of definitive radiotherapy for unresectable EBDC. Patients with advanced EBDC often experience biliary obstruction, which can lead to jaundice and progress to death. Biliary stent insertion is an important palliative procedure, but stents are prone to occlusion after subsequent ingrowth of the EBDC. Radiotherapy can be effective for maintaining the patency of inserted stents. We also reviewed the benefit of palliative radiotherapy combined with the biliary stent insertion. Lastly, we discuss the existing gaps in the evidence supporting radiotherapy in the management of EBDC.

**Key words:** Extrahepatic bile duct cancer; Patterns of failure; Adjuvant radiotherapy; Definitive radiotherapy; Palliative radiotherapy; Biliary stent

**© The Author(s) 2019.** Published by Baishideng Publishing Group Inc. All rights reserved.

**Core tips:** Radiotherapy has been administered for extrahepatic bile duct cancer patients in adjuvant, definitive, or palliative settings. The evidence in support of radiotherapy is derived from retrospective studies because there is a lack of randomized controlled trials. This review aimed to summarize contemporary series involving radiotherapy treatment for extrahepatic bile duct cancer. These data and findings were then used to propose strategies for generating robust evidence for or against the use of radiotherapy for this disease.

**Citation:** Koo T, Park HJ, Kim K. Radiation therapy for extrahepatic bile duct cancer: current evidences and future perspectives. *World J Clin Cases* 2019; 7(11): 1242-1252

**URL:** https://www.wjgnet.com/2307-8960/full/v7/i11/1242.htm

**DOI:** https://dx.doi.org/10.12998/wjcc.v7.i11.1242

**INTRODUCTION**

Extrahepatic bile duct cancer (EBDC) accounts for 3% of all gastrointestinal malignancies[1]. EBDC is traditionally divided into proximal and distal tumors, and the hallmark feature is a confluence of the cystic duct and common hepatic duct. The treatment of choice is surgical resection: combined hepatic and hilar resection for proximal tumors and pancreaticoduodenectomy for distal tumors. The bile duct system is deeply situated between surrounding critical organs and major vessels, which makes complete resection with pathologically negative margins difficult to achieve[2]. The 5-year survival rates are up to 50% after complete surgical resection, but survival dramatically decreases to as low as 0% after incomplete resection or without resection[3-6]. Adjuvant chemotherapy has been applied to increase survival among patients with bile duct malignancies, including cancers involving intrahepatic bile ducts, extrahepatic bile ducts, or the gallbladder. Phase III trials of gemcitabine alone[7] or gemcitabine plus oxaliplatin[8] failed to show a survival benefit of adjuvant chemotherapy alone compared with observation. In a palliative setting for unresectable bile duct cancer, cisplatin plus gemcitabine was associated with better survival than gemcitabine alone[9].

Another potential approach for improving EBDC treatment outcomes is the addition of radiotherapy (RT). Theoretically, adjuvant RT can complement locoregional control (LRC) after incomplete resection. Definitive RT can be applied with curative intent for inoperable patients, or palliative RT can be used for symptom control and for maintaining the patency of biliary stents in advanced cases. Nonetheless—owing to the rareness of the disease—to the best of our knowledge, there is no high-level evidence, including published reports of randomized controlled trials, supporting the use of RT for EBDC. However, there are a few published reports of relatively small retrospective studies demonstrating the efficacy of RT. In this review, we discuss patterns of EBDC treatment failure after curative resection to illustrate the rationale of adjuvant RT. We also discuss the role of RT in definitive treatment and palliative care settings. We searched literatures about RT for EBDC in PubMed, and then reviewed the literatures published between 1995 and 2018.

**PATTERNS OF TREATMENT FAILURE**

Locoregional failure (LRF) has been reported as the most common type of initial EBDC treatment failure. Two Korean studies[10,11] reported the patterns of initial treatment failure among EBDC patients who underwent curative resection. Choi *et al*[10] analyzed the patterns of failure among 93 EBDC patients who underwent gross total resection and no adjuvant RT. Tumor recurrence occurred in 54 patients: isolated LRF in 18 (19%), both LRF and distant metastasis (DM) in 20 (22%), and DM alone in 16 (17%). Another study showed a similar result in 97 EBDC patients after curative resection without adjuvant treatment[11]. Initial treatment failure was noted in 46 patients (47%): isolated LRF in 24 (25%), both LRF and DM in 13 (13%), and DM alone in 9 (9%). In terms of LRF sites, all of these studies reported similar distributions. The commonly involved LRF sites were tumor beds and lymph nodes (LNs) around the hepatoduodenal ligament, celiac artery, and superior mesenteric vein. Considering the higher proportion of LRF in initial treatment failures, a potential role for adjuvant RT to prevent LRF had been proposed.

EBDC is more commonly associated with LRF than other biliary malignancies. Jarnagin *et al*[12] analyzed 80 patients with gallbladder cancer (GBCA) and 76 patients with hilar cholangiocarcinoma (HCCA). All patients underwent potentially curative resection, and 11% of patients (11 with GBCA and 7 with HCCA) received adjuvant therapy. Recurrence occurred in 52 HCCA patients (68%), and the rates of initial LRF and DM were 65% and 36%, respectively. In contrast, 53 GBCA patients (66%) experienced tumor recurrence, and the rates of initial LRF and DM were 28% and 72%, respectively. The authors also noted the resection margin (RM), hilum, and bilioenteric anastomosis as sites of local recurrence. The LRF sites were concordant with those found in the aforementioned studies[10,11].

EBDC has two patterns of tumor progression: superficial spread and submucosal infiltration[13]. Consequently, biliary duct extension, liver atrophy, or portal vein involvement frequently occur, especially with proximal EBDC. Because of the natural history of proximal EBDC, hepatectomy is typically required to achieve negative RMs[14]. Additionally, an adequate radial margin should be obtained for mid-distal EBDC, although the bile duct is surrounded by major vascular structures[15]. Owing to the surgical complexity, the reported incidence of positive RMs ranges from 10% to 48% after potentially curative resection for EBDC[2-6,12,14]. Positive RMs are generally associated with poorer survival, and adjuvant RT is a potential solution to this problem.

**ADJUVANT RT**

The use of adjuvant RT for EBDC has been associated with a change in the patterns of treatment failure. Several studies investigating EBDC patients undergoing adjuvant RT have reported enhanced LRC, with DM identified as a significant pattern of failure. The 5-year locoregional–recurrence-free survival (LRFS) and overall survival (OS) rates are up to 80% and 46%, respectively, in patients with negative RMs[16-18]. In terms of initial failure sites, DM alone reportedly occurs in 58% to 76% of cases, LRF alone in 12% to 24%, and both LRF plus DM in 19% to 21%[16-18]. Conflicting results can also be found, for example, LRF reported as the predominant site of failure and the median OS reported as less than 20 mo[19,20]. Interestingly, the studies reporting lower LRFS used concomitant chemotherapy (20%-54%) less frequently than those reporting improved LRFS (84%-97%). The use of concomitant chemotherapy with adjuvant RT might increase LRC via a radiosensitizing effect. SWOG S0809, a phase II trial[21] used an intensified adjuvant treatment regimen—four cycles of gemcitabine and capecitabine followed by concurrent capecitabine and RT (54-59.4 Gy)—for EBDC (*n* = 54) and GBCA (*n* = 25) patients after curative resection. With a median follow-up time of 35 mo, the 2-year OS rates were 67% and 60% for R0- and R1-resected patients (not significantly different), respectively, and the 2-year local recurrence rates were 9% and 16% for corresponding patients. Regarding initial failure, distant failure (*n* = 24) was more frequent than local failure (*n* = 14). This was positive evidence, suggesting a high level of local control with the intensified adjuvant chemoradiotherapy (CRT) regimen.

In the absence of randomized controlled trials comparing adjuvant RT *vs* no RT after curative resection, we reviewed retrospective studies investigating potential survival and LRC benefits associated with adjuvant RT for EBDC. In earlier reports, the association between the use of adjuvant RT and improved outcomes was equivocal. Pitt *et al*[22] compared adjuvant RT *vs* no RT for proximal EBDC (*n* = 50). Adjuvant RT was not associated with improved outcomes, and median OS was not significantly different between the groups. These findings should be interpreted cautiously, however, because curative resection was frequently insufficient. In the resection subgroup (*n* = 31), gross total resection was achieved for only 21 patients, and 10 underwent partial resection. Two studies using the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) program of the National Cancer Institute[23,24] also concluded there was no definitive evidence for improved survival with the addition of adjuvant RT for resected EBDC. However, the registries in these studies had no information about the extent of resection, and the study period (1973-2004) was too long to reflect the trend of surgery or RT.

According to recently reported studies based on a multi-institutional database, adjuvant therapy is associated with improved survival for patients with resected EBDC[25-27]. In particular, adjuvant CRT is more beneficial than adjuvant chemotherapy or RT alone. As detailed methods for these studies were not provided, it is worthwhile to review retrospective studies. Selected series are summarized in Table 1.

Improved survival or LRC after adjuvant CRT was reported after several studies investigating the treatment of EBDC with resection and adjuvant therapy with curative intent[28-34]. Kim *et al*[30] performed survival analyses of EBDC patients who underwent curative resection and compared an adjuvant CRT group *vs* a no-CRT group. The median RT dose was 45 Gy in 25 fractions, and 5-fluorouracil (5-FU)-based chemotherapy was concurrently administered (99.1%). The CRT group had significantly longer 5-year LRFS (58.5% *vs* 44.4%, *P* = 0.007), disease-free survival (DFS; 32.1% *vs* 26.1%, *P* = 0.041), and OS (36.5% *vs* 28.2%, *P* = 0.049) than the no-CRT group. Gwak *et al*[31] reported the usefulness of adjuvant RT by comparing a surgery-alone group *vs* an adjuvant-RT group; LRF decreased (61.7% *vs* 35.6%, *P* = 0.02) and DFS increased among patients who underwent incomplete resection (4.1% *vs* 13.9%, *P* = 0.042). In contrast, no significant differences were found in the 5-year OS rates (12% *vs* 21%, *P* > 0.5), and less use of chemotherapy (51.6%) for the adjuvant RT group might be one of the reasons (Table 1).

To determine the patients most likely to benefit, adjuvant RT has been considered in cases with unfavorable disease characteristics. In this context, several studies have suggested that adjuvant RT or CRT yield equivalent even with apparently unfavorable baseline clinical features, such as advanced stage, LN-positive, or RM-positive disease[35-37]. Borghero *et al*[35] divided 65 patients who underwent curative resection into surgery-alone (RM-negative, *n* = 23) and adjuvant CRT (RM-positive or pN1, *n* = 42) groups. The median RT dose was 55 Gy (45 Gy to primary field and 10 Gy to boost field), and all patients with adjuvant RT received chemotherapy (5-FU in 52.4% and capecitabine in 47.6%). Even with unfavorable baseline clinical features, the surgery-alone and adjuvant CRT groups showed similar 5-year OS (36% *vs* 42%, *P* = 0.6) and LRFS (38% *vs* 37%, *P* = 0.13) (Table 1).

**DEFINITIVE RT**

Although resection is the most important treatment modality for EBDC, less than one-third of patients are amenable to curative resection at the time of diagnosis[38]. For patients with such advanced disease, an alternative option for LRC must be considered. Definitive CRT has been reported to be feasible and tolerable among patients with unresectable and non-metastatic EBDC[39,40]. In studies using the SEER database or National Cancer Database, CRT has been associated with improved survival, unlike RT alone[41] or chemotherapy alone[42]. Definitive CRT with intensified chemotherapy was a candidate strategy to improve LRC. In a phase I/II trial performed in Germany[43], 18 EBDC patients (7 resected cases and 11 unresectable cases) underwent CRT up to 49.6 Gy with gemcitabine followed by 66 cycles of gemcitabine and capecitabine. In patients with unresectable tumors, the median OS was 7.9 mo, and four patients experienced grade 3 to 4 cholangitis. Considering high toxicity, the authors did not recommend their protocol to patients with unresectable tumors.

Another option for improving LRC is increasing the RT dose. Because of the anatomic location of EBDCs, a higher RT dose can give rise to frequent and severe adverse events, such as duodenal ulcers, stenosis, and bowel perforation. In this context, a combination of external-beam RT (EBRT) and intraluminal brachytherapy (ILBT) has been tried. ILBT doses are prescribed at 0.5 to 1.5 cm from the center of the source, so the RT dose theoretically can be escalated within a manageable toxicity range. Due to the relative scarcity of studies guiding ILBT, various schemes for ILBT are used in practice, and patients receiving ILBT are frequently analyzed as a subgroup in EBDC studies[44-46]. In Italy, a phase II trial of definitive CRT with gemcitabine for unresectable EBDC was conducted[47]. Twenty-seven patients received 50 Gy of EBRT, and six patients were given 15 to 20 Gy of ILBT. After a median follow-up time of 16 mo, the 2-year LRFS and OS rates were 29% and 27%, respectively. GI toxicity was tolerable, and grade 3 and 4 toxicities occurred in four patients and one patient, respectively. Also, patients who received an ILBT boost appeared to have a better LRC than those who did not receive the boost (the 2-year LRFS rates, 53% *vs* 25%).

Several studies reported improved treatment outcomes in patients with unresectable EBDC after combination therapy with EBRT and ILBT[46,48-50]. Takamura *et al*[48] prescribed 27 to 50 Gy (mean, 39.2 Gy) of ILBT following 50 Gy of EBRT (*n* = 93). The median OS was 12 mo, and the 1-year and 2-year OS rates were 49.5% and 15.1%, respectively. Grade 3 gastroduodenal complications occurred in 10 patients (10.8%), grade 3 biliary complications in five patients (5.4%), and treatment-related biliary fistulas in eight patients (8.6%). However, results from studies comparing combined EBRT and ILBT *vs* EBRT alone are somewhat conflicting[49,50]. Shin *et al*[49] compared treatment outcomes among 17 patients who underwent EBRT alone (median, 50.4 Gy) and 14 patients who underwent EBRT and ILBT (15 Gy). The combination group had a better OS than the EBRT-alone group (at 2 years, 21% *vs* 0%, *P* = 0.015), but LRF rates were similar (36% *vs* 53%, *P* > 0.05). Yoshioka *et al*[50] performed a propensity-score matched-pair analysis of 209 patients (153 who underwent EBRT alone and 56 who received EBRT and ILBT). OS was similar between the groups (at 2 years, 31% for the ILBT(+) group *vs* 40% for the ILBT(-) group; *P* = 0.862), and there was a trend toward improvement of LRC in the ILBT(+) group (at 2 years, 65% for the ILBT(+) group *vs* 35% for the ILBT(-) group; *P* = 0.094). After sensitivity analysis, it was concluded that ILBT had no significant impact on OS but was associated with enhanced LRC. Selected studies for definitive RT are listed in Table 2.

With the development of new RT techniques, including sophisticated dose delivery and image guidance, intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) or stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT) have been noted as alternatives to ILBT. SBRT can deliver high doses within a narrower safety margin than would be possible with three-dimensional conformal RT. SBRT could be useful in terms of invasiveness and precise dose calculation. Promising results have been reported, especially following studies investigating proximal EBDC[51-54] (Table 3).

**PALLIATIVE RT**

Advanced EBDC patients often experience biliary obstruction, which can lead to jaundice, cholangitis, hepatic failure, biliary sepsis, and even death. Biliary stent insertion is commonly used to escape the vicious cycle of malignant biliary obstruction. Traditionally, endoscopic polyethylene stent insertion was preferred due to hemorrhage and bile leaks associated with liver puncture secondary to percutaneous stent insertion[55]. After stent insertion, recurrent obstruction related to tumor progression is a critical event compromising the quality of life and survival of patients with advanced EBDC. Practically, ILBT can help maintain biliary stent patency, which can significantly prolong stent patency and survival[56]. However, ILBT is invasive and requires longer hospitalization[57], and it is uncommonly performed despite positive results[58]**,** although high-dose ILBT could be an alternative to traditional low-dose ILBT[59].As mentioned earlier, advanced EBRT techniques, such as IMRT and SBRT, are expected to meet the need of dose escalation

Currently, metallic biliary stent insertion and EBRT are widely used to maintain stent patency and delay fatal biliary obstruction for advanced EBDC patients. Several studies have reported on the safety and effectiveness of EBRT combined with metallic stents in terms of prolonging stent patency (Table 4). Lee *et al*[60] compared 18 patients who received EBRT (RT group) and 32 patients who did not (no-RT group) after undergoing uncovered metallic stent insertion. Although stent patency (median, 4.7 mo *vs* 4.5 mo, *P* = 0.94) and OS (median, 14 mo *vs* 9 mo, *P* = 0.11) were not significantly different between the RT and no-RT groups, there was no serious adverse reaction in either group.

Meanwhile, Isayama *et al*[59] reported that RT enhanced OS and stent patency after comparing survival and stent patency among 39 patients with advanced EBDC (RT group, *n* = 28; no-RT group, *n* = 11). The RT group showed improved OS (median, 22.1 mo *vs* 5.7 mo; *P* = 0.0031) and stent patency (at 1 year, 50% *vs* 0%; *P* = 0.0165) relative to the no-RT group. Regarding complications, five patients (18%) in the RT group experienced hemorrhagic gastroduodenal ulcers but recovered after starting on anti-ulcer agents. Shinchi *et al*[61] also demonstrated that EBRT can provide a definite benefit for advanced EBDC patients (RT group, *n* = 30; no-RT group, *n* = 20) with metallic stents. Chemotherapy was given in 23% of the RT group and 40% of the no-RT group. The RT group had a mean OS of 10.6 mo, which was significantly longer than that of the no-RT group (6.4 mo, *P* < 0.05). RT administration was associated with prolonged stent patency (mean, 9.8 mo *vs* 3.7 mo; *P* < 0.001). Within the RT group, one patient experienced grade 4 hematologic toxicity, one patient experienced grade 3 anorexia and nausea, and one patient presented with grade 3 gastroduodenal bleeding necessitating transfusion.

For most studies, the dose of EBRT for palliation has been 45-50 Gy[59-61], which is similar to the RT dose used in the definitive treatment setting (Table 2). Five weeks of RT is a relatively long time considering the aim of palliation. Tan *et al*[62] ] used a shorter course of palliative RT, with a total dose of 37.0 to 40.7 Gy in 10 to 11 fractions for unresectable EBDC patients (25 patients in the RT group and 13 patients in the no-RT group). Early complications were noted in three patients (12%) and three patients (23%) in the RT and no-RT groups, respectively. There was only one procedure-associated death, which was of a patient who did not undergo RT. RT also prolonged survival (median, 12.2 mo *vs* 8.9 mo; *P* = 0.025) and stent patency (median, 10.9 mo *vs* 6.5 mo; *P* = 0.022).

In summary, biliary stenting offers opportunities to relief obstruction-related symptoms and delay death for advanced EBDC patients. EBRT could prolong stent patency and survival, and it is less invasive than ILBT. For patient convenience, a shorter course of palliative RT with a larger daily fraction size could be considered.

**FUTURE PERSPECTIVES**

Although RT may have a positive effect on LRC for EBDC patients, clear evidence from phase III trials is required. Limited numbers of phase III clinical trials are being conducted for unresectable or resected EBDC patients. For unresectable EBDC, an important topic is whether CRT is superior to chemotherapy alone. The agents used for single chemotherapy are gemcitabine and cisplatin, and gemcitabine is used for CRT. The doses for definitive RT are 45 Gy in 25 fractions for microscopic disease and a higher dose of 52.5 to 60 Gy in 25 fractions for gross disease (NCT02773485). After resection, adjuvant CRT *vs* chemotherapy alone is also being tested. For adjuvant CRT, induction chemotherapy with gemcitabine plus capecitabine followed by CRT with capecitabine is given; and for adjuvant chemotherapy alone, gemcitabine plus capecitabine is used. The total dose for adjuvant RT is 50.4 Gy in 28 fractions (NCT02798510).

One of the most important barriers to administering RT for EBDC patients is the lack of guidelines for clinical target volume (CTV) delineation. Insufficient CTVs cannot accomplish efficient LRC, while extensive CTVs may lead to unnecessary adverse effects. Recently, visualization of LN recurrence has been used for determining appropriate CTV boundaries[10,63]; however, discordance among studies is inevitable owing to the rareness of EBDC and its associated complex anatomical classification. To investigate solutions to these limitations, Socha *et al*[64] comprehensively searched the literature for articles reporting pathological data on the LN involvement patterns and LRF locations of biliary tract cancers. The authors also searched for articles about adjuvant RT and extracted information about CTV. The literature review revealed that the areas of potential geographic misses were the paraaortic LNs (entire EBDC), superior mesenteric artery LNs (middle and distal EBDCs), and anterior pancreaticoduodenal LNs (distal EBDC). Conversely, celiac LNs were considered to be unnecessarily irradiated for middle and distal EBDCs. Based on these results, an atlas was proposed for CTV delineation[65]. The innovation of RT techniques makes the delivery of higher RT doses within a sub-millimeter scale. To catch up to the technical progress, a sophisticated and standardized guideline for CTV delineation is essential.

**CONCLUSION**

LRF is the major pattern of initial failure after surgical resection for EBDC patients. The addition of RT has been considered to have the potential to improve LRC. A phase II trial of adjuvant CRT for resected EBDC and GBCA showed a high level of local control even in R1-resected patients. Although there are no phase III trials comparing resection alone *vs* adjuvant treatments, retrospective studies have reported that adjuvant CRT is associated with improved LRC after curative-intent resection of EBDC. For patients with unresectable EBDC, a combination of EBRT and ILBT was traditionally administered. With the progression of modern RT techniques, less invasive and more intensive IMRT or SBRT have been tried as substitutes for ILBT. In patients unamenable to curative treatment, biliary stents are commonly inserted to relieve obstruction-related symptoms and delay death. Additional RT— either ILBT or EBRT—has been reported to be associated with prolonged stent patency and survival. At this time, several phase III clinical trials are being conducted to establish clear evidence. Additionally, a standard guideline for CTV delineation is needed.

**REFERENCES**

1 **Khan SA**, Thomas HC, Davidson BR, Taylor-Robinson SD. Cholangiocarcinoma. *Lancet* 2005; **366**: 1303-1314 [PMID: 16214602 DOI: 10.1016/S0140-6736(05)67530-7]

2 **Jarnagin WR**, Fong Y, DeMatteo RP, Gonen M, Burke EC, Bodniewicz BS J, Youssef BA M, Klimstra D, Blumgart LH. Staging, resectability, and outcome in 225 patients with hilar cholangiocarcinoma. *Ann Surg* 2001; **234**: 507-517; discussion 517-519 [PMID: 11573044]

3 **Kosuge T**, Yamamoto J, Shimada K, Yamasaki S, Makuuchi M. Improved surgical results for hilar cholangiocarcinoma with procedures including major hepatic resection. *Ann Surg* 1999; **230**: 663-671 [PMID: 10561090]

4 **Wakai T**, Shirai Y, Moroda T, Yokoyama N, Hatakeyama K. Impact of ductal resection margin status on long-term survival in patients undergoing resection for extrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma. *Cancer* 2005; **103**: 1210-1216 [PMID: 15685618 DOI: 10.1002/cncr.20906]

5 **Jang JY**, Kim SW, Park DJ, Ahn YJ, Yoon YS, Choi MG, Suh KS, Lee KU, Park YH. Actual long-term outcome of extrahepatic bile duct cancer after surgical resection. *Ann Surg* 2005; **241**: 77-84 [PMID: 15621994]

6 **Hemming AW**, Reed AI, Fujita S, Foley DP, Howard RJ. Surgical management of hilar cholangiocarcinoma. *Ann Surg* 2005; **241**: 693-699; discussion 699-702 [PMID: 15849505]

7 **Ebata T**, Hirano S, Konishi M, Uesaka K, Tsuchiya Y, Ohtsuka M, Kaneoka Y, Yamamoto M, Ambo Y, Shimizu Y, Ozawa F, Fukutomi A, Ando M, Nimura Y, Nagino M; Bile Duct Cancer Adjuvant Trial (BCAT) Study Group. Randomized clinical trial of adjuvant gemcitabine chemotherapy versus observation in resected bile duct cancer. *Br J Surg* 2018; **105**: 192-202 [PMID: 29405274 DOI: 10.1002/bjs.10776]

8 **Edeline J**, Benabdelghani M, Bertaut A, Watelet J, Hammel P, Joly JP, Boudjema K, Fartoux L, Bouhier-Leporrier K, Jouve JL, Faroux R, Guerin-Meyer V, Kurtz JE, Assénat E, Seitz JF, Baumgaertner I, Tougeron D, de la Fouchardière C, Lombard-Bohas C, Boucher E, Stanbury T, Louvet C, Malka D, Phelip JM. Gemcitabine and Oxaliplatin Chemotherapy or Surveillance in Resected Biliary Tract Cancer (PRODIGE 12-ACCORD 18-UNICANCER GI): A Randomized Phase III Study. *J Clin Oncol* 2019; **37**: 658-667 [PMID: 30707660 DOI: 10.1200/JCO.18.00050]

9 **Valle J**, Wasan H, Palmer DH, Cunningham D, Anthoney A, Maraveyas A, Madhusudan S, Iveson T, Hughes S, Pereira SP, Roughton M, Bridgewater J; ABC-02 Trial Investigators. Cisplatin plus gemcitabine versus gemcitabine for biliary tract cancer. *N Engl J Med* 2010; **362**: 1273-1281 [PMID: 20375404 DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa0908721]

10 **Choi HS**, Kang KM, Jeong BK, Jeong H, Lee YH, Ha IB, Kim TG, Song JH. Patterns of failure after resection of extrahepatic bile duct cancer: implications for adjuvant radiotherapy indication and treatment volumes. *Radiat Oncol* 2018; **13**: 85 [PMID: 29739420 DOI: 10.1186/s13014-018-1024-z]

11 **Koo TR**, Eom KY, Kim IA, Cho JY, Yoon YS, Hwang DW, Han HS, Kim JS. Patterns of failure and prognostic factors in resected extrahepatic bile duct cancer: implication for adjuvant radiotherapy. *Radiat Oncol J* 2014; **32**: 63-69 [PMID: 25061574 DOI: 10.3857/roj.2014.32.2.63]

12 **Jarnagin WR**, Ruo L, Little SA, Klimstra D, D'Angelica M, DeMatteo RP, Wagman R, Blumgart LH, Fong Y. Patterns of initial disease recurrence after resection of gallbladder carcinoma and hilar cholangiocarcinoma: implications for adjuvant therapeutic strategies. *Cancer* 2003; **98**: 1689-1700 [PMID: 14534886 DOI: 10.1002/cncr.11699]

13 **Sakamoto E**, Nimura Y, Hayakawa N, Kamiya J, Kondo S, Nagino M, Kanai M, Miyachi M, Uesaka K. The pattern of infiltration at the proximal border of hilar bile duct carcinoma: a histologic analysis of 62 resected cases. *Ann Surg* 1998; **227**: 405-411 [PMID: 9527064]

14 **Burke EC**, Jarnagin WR, Hochwald SN, Pisters PW, Fong Y, Blumgart LH. Hilar Cholangiocarcinoma: patterns of spread, the importance of hepatic resection for curative operation, and a presurgical clinical staging system. *Ann Surg* 1998; **228**: 385-394 [PMID: 9742921]

15 **Sakamoto Y**, Kosuge T, Shimada K, Sano T, Ojima H, Yamamoto J, Yamasaki S, Takayama T, Makuuchi M. Prognostic factors of surgical resection in middle and distal bile duct cancer: an analysis of 55 patients concerning the significance of ductal and radial margins. *Surgery* 2005; **137**: 396-402 [PMID: 15800484 DOI: 10.1016/j.surg.2004.10.008]

16 **Kim K**, Chie EK, Jang JY, Kim SW, Han SW, Oh DY, Im SA, Kim TY, Bang YJ, Ha SW. Adjuvant chemoradiotherapy after curative resection for extrahepatic bile duct cancer: a long-term single center experience. *Am J Clin Oncol* 2012; **35**: 136-140 [PMID: 21325937 DOI: 10.1097/COC.0b013e318209aa29]

17 **Park JH**, Choi EK, Ahn SD, Lee SW, Song SY, Yoon SM, Kim YS, Lee YS, Lee SG, Hwang S, Lee YJ, Park KM, Kim TW, Chang HM, Lee JL, Kim JH. Postoperative chemoradiotherapy for extrahepatic bile duct cancer. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2011; **79**: 696-704 [PMID: 20510541 DOI: 10.1016/j.ijrobp.2009.12.031]

18 **Nelson JW**, Ghafoori AP, Willett CG, Tyler DS, Pappas TN, Clary BM, Hurwitz HI, Bendell JC, Morse MA, Clough RW, Czito BG. Concurrent chemoradiotherapy in resected extrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2009; **73**: 148-153 [PMID: 18805651 DOI: 10.1016/j.ijrobp.2008.07.008]

19 **Ben-David MA**, Griffith KA, Abu-Isa E, Lawrence TS, Knol J, Zalupski M, Ben-Josef E. External-beam radiotherapy for localized extrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2006; **66**: 772-779 [PMID: 17011452 DOI: 10.1016/j.ijrobp.2006.05.061]

20 **Oh D**, Lim DH, Heo JS, Choi SH, Choi DW, Ahn YC, Park W, Huh SJ. The role of adjuvant radiotherapy in microscopic tumor control after extrahepatic bile duct cancer surgery. *Am J Clin Oncol* 2007; **30**: 21-25 [PMID: 17278890 DOI: 10.1097/01.coc.0000245467.97180.78]

21 **Ben-Josef E**, Guthrie KA, El-Khoueiry AB, Corless CL, Zalupski MM, Lowy AM, Thomas CR Jr, Alberts SR, Dawson LA, Micetich KC, Thomas MB, Siegel AB, Blanke CD. SWOG S0809: A Phase II Intergroup Trial of Adjuvant Capecitabine and Gemcitabine Followed by Radiotherapy and Concurrent Capecitabine in Extrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma and Gallbladder Carcinoma. *J Clin Oncol* 2015; **33**: 2617-2622 [PMID: 25964250 DOI: 10.1200/JCO.2014.60.2219]

22 **Pitt HA**, Nakeeb A, Abrams RA, Coleman J, Piantadosi S, Yeo CJ, Lillemore KD, Cameron JL. Perihilar cholangiocarcinoma. Postoperative radiotherapy does not improve survival. *Ann Surg* 1995; **221**: 788-97; discussion 797-8 [PMID: 7794082]

23 **Vern-Gross TZ**, Shivnani AT, Chen K, Lee CM, Tward JD, MacDonald OK, Crane CH, Talamonti MS, Munoz LL, Small W Jr. Survival outcomes in resected extrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma: effect of adjuvant radiotherapy in a surveillance, epidemiology, and end results analysis. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2011; **81**: 189-198 [PMID: 20971573 DOI: 10.1016/j.ijrobp.2010.05.001]

24 **Yu JB**, Decker RH, Knisely JP. The role of postoperative radiation therapy (PORT) in the treatment of extrahepatic bile duct cancer: a surveillance, epidemiology, and end results (SEER) population-based investigation. *J Gastrointest Cancer* 2008; **39**: 11-21 [PMID: 19156542 DOI: 10.1007/s12029-008-9045-8]

25 **Hoehn RS**, Wima K, Ertel AE, Meier A, Ahmad SA, Shah SA, Abbott DE. Adjuvant Chemotherapy and Radiation Therapy is Associated with Improved Survival for Patients with Extrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma. *Ann Surg Oncol* 2015; **22 Suppl 3**: S1133-S1139 [PMID: 25976862 DOI: 10.1245/s10434-015-4599-8]

26 **Ecker BL**, Vining CC, Roses RE, Maggino L, Lee MK, Drebin JA, Fraker DL, Vollmer CM Jr, Datta J. Identification of Patients for Adjuvant Therapy After Resection of Carcinoma of the Extrahepatic Bile Ducts: A Propensity Score-Matched Analysis. *Ann Surg Oncol* 2017; **24**: 3926-3933 [PMID: 28952140 DOI: 10.1245/s10434-017-6095-9]

27 **Krasnick BA**, Jin LX, Davidson JT 4th, Sanford DE, Ethun CG, Pawlik TM, Poultsides GA, Tran T, Idrees K, Hawkins WG, Chapman WC, Doyle MBM, Weber SM, Strasberg SM, Salem A, Martin RCG, Isom CA, Scoggins C, Schmidt CR, Shen P, Beal E, Hatzaras I, Shenoy R, Maithel SK, Fields RC. Adjuvant therapy is associated with improved survival after curative resection for hilar cholangiocarcinoma: A multi-institution analysis from the U.S. extrahepatic biliary malignancy consortium. *J Surg Oncol* 2018; **117**: 363-371 [PMID: 29284072 DOI: 10.1002/jso.24836]

28 **Todoroki T**, Ohara K, Kawamoto T, Koike N, Yoshida S, Kashiwagi H, Otsuka M, Fukao K. Benefits of adjuvant radiotherapy after radical resection of locally advanced main hepatic duct carcinoma. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2000; **46**: 581-587 [PMID: 10701737]

29 **Heron DE**, Stein DE, Eschelman DJ, Topham AK, Waterman FM, Rosato EL, Alden M, Anne PR. Cholangiocarcinoma: the impact of tumor location and treatment strategy on outcome. *Am J Clin Oncol* 2003; **26**: 422-428 [PMID: 12902899 DOI: 10.1097/01.COC.0000026833.73428.1F]

30 **Kim TH**, Han SS, Park SJ, Lee WJ, Woo SM, Moon SH, Yoo T, Kim SS, Kim SH, Hong EK, Kim DY, Park JW. Role of adjuvant chemoradiotherapy for resected extrahepatic biliary tract cancer. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2011; **81**: e853-e859 [PMID: 21497455 DOI: 10.1016/j.ijrobp.2010.12.019]

31 **Gwak HK**, Kim WC, Kim HJ, Park JH. Extrahepatic bile duct cancers: surgery alone versus surgery plus postoperative radiation therapy. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2010; **78**: 194-198 [PMID: 19910130 DOI: 10.1016/j.ijrobp.2009.07.003]

32 **Im JH**, Seong J, Lee IJ, Park JS, Yoon DS, Kim KS, Lee WJ, Park KR. Surgery Alone Versus Surgery Followed by Chemotherapy and Radiotherapy in Resected Extrahepatic Bile Duct Cancer: Treatment Outcome Analysis of 336 Patients. *Cancer Res Treat* 2016; **48**: 583-595 [PMID: 26323644 DOI: 10.4143/crt.2015.091]

33 **Kim MY**, Kim JH, Kim Y, Byun SJ. Postoperative radiotherapy appeared to improve the disease free survival rate of patients with extrahepatic bile duct cancer at high risk of loco-regional recurrence. *Radiat Oncol J* 2016; **34**: 297-304 [PMID: 27951624 DOI: 10.3857/roj.2016.01879]

34 **Kim YJ**, Kim K, Min SK, Nam EM. Role of adjuvant radiotherapy for localized extrahepatic bile duct cancer. *Br J Radiol* 2017; **90**: 20160807 [PMID: 28118028 DOI: 10.1259/bjr.20160807]

35 **Borghero Y**, Crane CH, Szklaruk J, Oyarzo M, Curley S, Pisters PW, Evans D, Abdalla EK, Thomas MB, Das P, Wistuba II, Krishnan S, Vauthey JN. Extrahepatic bile duct adenocarcinoma: patients at high-risk for local recurrence treated with surgery and adjuvant chemoradiation have an equivalent overall survival to patients with standard-risk treated with surgery alone. *Ann Surg Oncol* 2008; **15**: 3147-3156 [PMID: 18754070 DOI: 10.1245/s10434-008-9998-7]

36 **Matsuda T**, Fujita H, Harada N, Kunimoto Y, Tanaka T, Kimura T, Kitaoka H, Asano E, Hosono M, Hayashi T, Ogino K. Impact of adjuvant radiation therapy for microscopic residual tumor after resection of extrahepatic bile duct cancer. *Am J Clin Oncol* 2013; **36**: 461-465 [PMID: 22706178 DOI: 10.1097/COC.0b013e31825494ab]

37 **Lee J**, Kang SH, Noh OK, Chun M, Oh YT, Kim BW, Kim SW. Adjuvant concurrent chemoradiation therapy in patients with microscopic residual tumor after curative resection for extrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma. *Clin Transl Oncol* 2018; **20**: 1011-1017 [PMID: 29256155 DOI: 10.1007/s12094-017-1815-y]

38 **Khan SA**, Davidson BR, Goldin RD, Heaton N, Karani J, Pereira SP, Rosenberg WM, Tait P, Taylor-Robinson SD, Thillainayagam AV, Thomas HC, Wasan H; British Society of Gastroenterology. Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of cholangiocarcinoma: an update. *Gut* 2012; **61**: 1657-1669 [PMID: 22895392 DOI: 10.1136/gutjnl-2011-301748]

39 **Lee KJ**, Yi SW, Cha J, Seong J, Bang S, Song SY, Kim HM, Park SW. A pilot study of concurrent chemoradiotherapy with gemcitabine and cisplatin in patients with locally advanced biliary tract cancer. *Cancer Chemother Pharmacol* 2016; **78**: 841-846 [PMID: 27586966 DOI: 10.1007/s00280-016-3143-2]

40 **Shinohara ET**, Mitra N, Guo M, Metz JM. Radiotherapy is associated with improved survival in adjuvant and palliative treatment of extrahepatic cholangiocarcinomas. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2009; **74**: 1191-1198 [PMID: 19201549 DOI: 10.1016/j.ijrobp.2008.09.017]

41 **Pollom EL**, Alagappan M, Park LS, Whittemore AS, Koong AC, Chang DT. Does radiotherapy still have a role in unresected biliary tract cancer? *Cancer Med* 2017; **6**: 129-141 [PMID: 27891822 DOI: 10.1002/cam4.975]

42 **Torgeson A**, Lloyd S, Boothe D, Cannon G, Garrido-Laguna I, Whisenant J, Lewis M, Kim R, Scaife C, Tao R. Chemoradiation Therapy for Unresected Extrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma: A Propensity Score-Matched Analysis. *Ann Surg Oncol* 2017; **24**: 4001-4008 [PMID: 29043526 DOI: 10.1245/s10434-017-6131-9]

43 **Schoppmeyer K**, Miethe S, Wiedmann M, Liebmann A, Hauss J, Mossner J, Caca K, Witzigmann H, Hildebrandt G. Radiochemotherapy followed by gemcitabine and capecitabine in extrahepatic bile duct cancer: a phase I/II trial. *Am J Clin Oncol* 2006; **29**: 576-582 [PMID: 17148994 DOI: 10.1097/01.coc.0000239167.17922.82]

44 **Deodato F**, Clemente G, Mattiucci GC, Macchia G, Costamagna G, Giuliante F, Smaniotto D, Luzi S, Valentini V, Mutignani M, Nuzzo G, Cellini N, Morganti AG. Chemoradiation and brachytherapy in biliary tract carcinoma: long-term results. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2006; **64**: 483-488 [PMID: 16242254 DOI: 10.1016/j.ijrobp.2005.07.977]

45 **Brunner TB**, Schwab D, Meyer T, Sauer R. Chemoradiation may prolong survival of patients with non-bulky unresectable extrahepatic biliary carcinoma. A retrospective analysis. *Strahlenther Onkol* 2004; **180**: 751-757 [PMID: 15592694 DOI: 10.1007/s00066-004-1315-1]

46 **Schleicher UM**, Staatz G, Alzen G, Andreopoulos D. Combined external beam and intraluminal radiotherapy for irresectable Klatskin tumors. *Strahlenther Onkol* 2002; **178**: 682-687 [PMID: 12491056 DOI: 10.1007/s00066-002-0947-2]

47 **Autorino R**, Mattiucci GC, Ardito F, Balducci M, Deodato F, Macchia G, Mantini G, Perri V, Tringali A, Gambacorta MA, Tagliaferri L, Giuliante F, Morganti AG, Valentini V. Radiochemotherapy with Gemcitabine in Unresectable Extrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma: Long-term Results of a Phase II Study. *Anticancer Res* 2016; **36**: 737-740 [PMID: 26851032]

48 **Takamura A**, Saito H, Kamada T, Hiramatsu K, Takeuchi S, Hasegawa M, Miyamoto N. Intraluminal low-dose-rate 192Ir brachytherapy combined with external beam radiotherapy and biliary stenting for unresectable extrahepatic bile duct carcinoma. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2003; **57**: 1357-1365 [PMID: 14630274]

49 **Shin HS**, Seong J, Kim WC, Lee HS, Moon SR, Lee IJ, Lee KK, Park KR, Suh CO, Kim GE. Combination of external beam irradiation and high-dose-rate intraluminal brachytherapy for inoperable carcinoma of the extrahepatic bile ducts. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2003; **57**: 105-112 [PMID: 12909222]

50 **Yoshioka Y**, Ogawa K, Oikawa H, Onishi H, Kanesaka N, Tamamoto T, Kosugi T, Hatano K, Kobayashi M, Ito Y, Takayama M, Takemoto M, Karasawa K, Nagakura H, Imai M, Kosaka Y, Yamazaki H, Isohashi F, Nemoto K, Nishimura Y; Japanese Radiation Oncology Study Group (JROSG). Impact of intraluminal brachytherapy on survival outcome for radiation therapy for unresectable biliary tract cancer: a propensity-score matched-pair analysis. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2014; **89**: 822-829 [PMID: 24969796 DOI: 10.1016/j.ijrobp.2014.04.020]

51 **Kopek N**, Holt MI, Hansen AT, Høyer M. Stereotactic body radiotherapy for unresectable cholangiocarcinoma. *Radiother Oncol* 2010; **94**: 47-52 [PMID: 19963295 DOI: 10.1016/j.radonc.2009.11.004]

52 **Momm F**, Schubert E, Henne K, Hodapp N, Frommhold H, Harder J, Grosu AL, Becker G. Stereotactic fractionated radiotherapy for Klatskin tumours. *Radiother Oncol* 2010; **95**: 99-102 [PMID: 20347169 DOI: 10.1016/j.radonc.2010.03.013]

53 **Polistina FA**, Guglielmi R, Baiocchi C, Francescon P, Scalchi P, Febbraro A, Costantin G, Ambrosino G. Chemoradiation treatment with gemcitabine plus stereotactic body radiotherapy for unresectable, non-metastatic, locally advanced hilar cholangiocarcinoma. Results of a five year experience. *Radiother Oncol* 2011; **99**: 120-123 [PMID: 21621289 DOI: 10.1016/j.radonc.2011.05.016]

54 **Jung DH**, Kim MS, Cho CK, Yoo HJ, Jang WI, Seo YS, Paik EK, Kim KB, Han CJ, Kim SB. Outcomes of stereotactic body radiotherapy for unresectable primary or recurrent cholangiocarcinoma. *Radiat Oncol J* 2014; **32**: 163-169 [PMID: 25324988 DOI: 10.3857/roj.2014.32.3.163]

55 **Speer AG**, Cotton PB, Russell RC, Mason RR, Hatfield AR, Leung JW, MacRae KD, Houghton J, Lennon CA. Randomised trial of endoscopic versus percutaneous stent insertion in malignant obstructive jaundice. *Lancet* 1987; **2**: 57-62 [PMID: 2439854]

56 **Xu X**, Li J, Wu J, Zhu R, Ji W. A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Intraluminal Brachytherapy Versus Stent Alone in the Treatment of Malignant Obstructive Jaundice. *Cardiovasc Intervent Radiol* 2018; **41**: 206-217 [PMID: 29075881 DOI: 10.1007/s00270-017-1827-6]

57 **Bowling TE**, Galbraith SM, Hatfield AR, Solano J, Spittle MF. A retrospective comparison of endoscopic stenting alone with stenting and radiotherapy in non-resectable cholangiocarcinoma. *Gut* 1996; **39**: 852-855 [PMID: 9038668]

58 **Válek V**, Kysela P, Kala Z, Kiss I, Tomásek J, Petera J. Brachytherapy and percutaneous stenting in the treatment of cholangiocarcinoma: a prospective randomised study. *Eur J Radiol* 2007; **62**: 175-179 [PMID: 17344008 DOI: 10.1016/j.ejrad.2007.01.037]

59 **Isayama H**, Tsujino T, Nakai Y, Sasaki T, Nakagawa K, Yamashita H, Aoki T, Koike K. Clinical benefit of radiation therapy and metallic stenting for unresectable hilar cholangiocarcinoma. *World J Gastroenterol* 2012; **18**: 2364-2370 [PMID: 22654427 DOI: 10.3748/wjg.v18.i19.2364]

60 **Lee JK**, Kwack WK, Lee SH, Jung JH, Kwon JH, Han IW, Lee JH. Effect of external beam radiotherapy on patency of uncovered metallic stents in patients with inoperable bile duct cancer. *Hepatobiliary Pancreat Dis Int* 2014; **13**: 423-427 [PMID: 25100128]

61 **Shinchi H**, Takao S, Nishida H, Aikou T. Length and quality of survival following external beam radiotherapy combined with expandable metallic stent for unresectable hilar cholangiocarcinoma. *J Surg Oncol* 2000; **75**: 89-94 [PMID: 11064386]

62 **Tan Y**, Zhu JY, Qiu BA, Xia NX, Wang JH. Percutaneous biliary stenting combined with radiotherapy as a treatment for unresectable hilar cholangiocarcinoma. *Oncol Lett* 2015; **10**: 2537-2542 [PMID: 26622885 DOI: 10.3892/ol.2015.3589]

63 **Ghiassi-Nejad Z**, Tarchi P, Moshier E, Ru M, Tabrizian P, Schwartz M, Buckstein M. Prognostic Factors and Patterns of Locoregional Failure After Surgical Resection in Patients With Cholangiocarcinoma Without Adjuvant Radiation Therapy: Optimal Field Design for Adjuvant Radiation Therapy. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2017; **99**: 805-811 [PMID: 29063849 DOI: 10.1016/j.ijrobp.2017.06.2467]

64 **Socha J**, Michalak M, Wołąkiewicz G, Kepka L. Nodal areas of potential geographic error in adjuvant radiotherapy for biliary tract cancer. *Radiother Oncol* 2017; **125**: 365-373 [PMID: 29033254 DOI: 10.1016/j.radonc.2017.09.025]

65 **Bisello S**, Renzulli M, Buwenge M, Calculli L, Sallustio G, Macchia G, Deodato F, Mattiucci G, Cammelli S, Arcelli A, Giaccherini L, Cellini F, Brandi G, Guerri S, Cilla S, Golfieri R, Fuccio L, Morganti AG, Guido A. An atlas for clinical target volume definition, including elective nodal irradiation in definitive radiotherapy of biliary cancer. *Oncol Lett* 2019; **17**: 1784-1790 [PMID: 30675238 DOI: 10.3892/ol.2018.9774]

**P-Reviewer:** Sergi C **S-Editor:** Gong ZM

**L-Editor:**A **E-Editor:** Xing YX

**Specialty type:** Medicine, research and experimental

**Country of origin:** South Korea

**Peer-review report classification**

Grade A (Excellent): 0

Grade B (Very good): 0

Grade C (Good): C

Grade D (Fair): 0

Grade E (Poor): 0

**Table 1 Contemporary series of adjuvant radiotherapy for resected extrahepatic bile duct cancer**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref.** | **Study period** | **Study design** | **No. of pts** | **RT dose (median)** | **Concurrent chemotherapy** | **Subgroup** | **5-yr overall survival** | |
| Kim *et al*[16] | 1995-2002 | Retrospective | 86 | 40 Gy | 5-FU (96.5%) | R0 (*n* = 58) | 46.3% | 〕*P* = 0.6641 |
| R1 (*n* = 28) | 41.4% |
| Park *et al*[17] | 1998-2007 | Retrospective | 101 | 50 Gy | 5-FU (84%) | R0 (*n* = 52) | 44% | 〕*P* = 0.2779 |
| R1 (*n* = 37) | 33% |
| Borghero *et al*[35] | 1984-2005 | Retrospective | 65 | 55 Gy  - | 5-FU (52.4%), Cap (47.6%) | RT1 (*n* = 42)  No RT (*n* = 23) | 36%  42% | 〕*P* = 0.6 |
| Gwak *et al*[31] | 1997-2005 | Retrospective | 78 | 50.4 Gy  - | FP or FL (51.6%)  - | RT (*n* = 31)  No RT2 (*n* = 47) | 21.0%  11.6% | 〕*P* > 0.5 |
| Kim *et al*[30]3 | 2001-2009 | Retrospective | 168 | 45 Gy | FL (99.1%) | RT (*n* = 115) | 36.5% | 〕*P* = 0.049 |
| - | - | No RT (*n* = 53) | 28.2% |
| Ben-Josef *et al*[21]4 | 2008-2012 | Phase 2 | 79 | 54-59.4 Gy | 4 cycles of GemCap followed by concurrent Cap | R0 (*n* = 54)  R1 (*n* = 25) | 67%5  60%5 | 〕*P* = NS |

1Received adjuvant chemotherapy before chemoradiotherapy in 17% of patients; 2Received adjuvant chemotherapy in 17% of patients; 3Includes ampullary cancer as well (18.4%); 4Includes gallbladder cancer as well (31.6%); 52-yr overall survial rate. RT: radiotherapy; 5-FU: 5-fluorouracil; Cap: capecitabine; FL: 5-FU plus leucovorin; GemCap: gemcitabine plus capecitabine; NS: not significant.

**Table 2 Contemporary series of definitive radiotherapy for unresectable extrahepatic bile duct cancer**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref.** | **Study period** | **Study design** | **No. of pts** | **EBRT (median)** | **Brachytherapy** | **Chemotherapy** | **Median OS (mo)** | |
| Deodata *et al*[44] | 1991-1997 | Retrospective | 22 | 50.4 Gy | 30-50 Gy (*n* = 12) | 5-FU (95.5%) | 23.01 | |
| Brunner *et al*[45] | 1994-2001 | Retrospective | 25 | 45 Gy | 10 Gy (*n* = 4) | FM (40%), GP (56%) | 11.82 | |
| Schleicher *et al*[46] | 1991-1999 | Retrospective | 30 | 30 Gy | 24-40 Gy (*n* = 18) | 5-FU (80%) | 5.72 | |
| Takamura *et al*[48] | 1988-1998 | Retrospective | 93 | 50 Gy | 39.2 Gy3 | - | 122 | |
| Shin *et al*[49] | 1986-1995 | Retrospective | 31 | 50.4 Gy | 15 Gy (*n* = 14) | - | 21%4 | 〕*P* = 0.015 |
| - (*n* = 17) | 0%4 |
| Yoshioka *et al*[50] | 2000-2011 | Retrospective | 209 | 50 Gy | 8-30 Gy (*n* = 56) | Various (57%) | 31%4  40%4 | 〕*P* = 0.862 |
| - (*n* = 153) |
| Torgeson *et al*[42] | 2004-2014 | NCBD | 1070 | 54-89 Gy | - | Various (100%) | 14.5 | 〕*P* < 0.001 |
| 1871 | - | - | 12.6 |
| Autorino *et al*[47] | 2002-2009 | Phase 2 | 27 | 50 Gy | 15-20 Gy (*n* = 6) | Gemcitabine (100%) | 14 | |

1from the date of cancer diagnosis; 2from the time of radiotherapy initiation; 3mean; 42-yr overall survival rate. ERRT: external beam radiotherapy; OS: overall survival; 5-FU: 5-fluorouracil; FM: 5-FU plus mitomycin-C; GP: gemcitabine plus cisplatin; NCDB: National Cancer Database.

**Table 3 Stereotactic body radiotherapy for hilar cholangiocarcinoma**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref.** | **Study period** | **Study design** | **No. of pts** | **RT dose** | **RT modality** | **Late toxicity ≥ Gr 3** | **Median OS (mo)** |
| Kopek *et al*[51]1 | 1999-2006 | Retrospective | 27 | 45 Gy/3fx | linear accelerator | 22.2% (duodenal ulcer) | 10.62 |
| Momm *et al*[52] | 1998-2008 | Retrospective | 13 | 32-56 Gy/8-16fx | linear accelerator | None | 33.53 |
| Polistina *et al*[53] | 2004-2009 | Retrospective | 10 | 30 Gy/3fx | Cyber Knife | None | 35.53 |

1Includes intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma as well (3.7%); 2from the date of radiotherapy initiation; 3from the date of cancer diagnosis.

**Table 4 Palliative radiotherapy for stent patency in hilar cholangiocarcinoma**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref.** | **Study period** | **Study design** | **No. of pts** | **EBRT** | **Brachytherapy** | **Median OS (mo)** | | **Median stent patency (mo)** | |
| Lee *et al*[60]1 | 2005-2008 | Retrospective | 18 | ≥ 50 Gy | - | 14.0 | 〕 *P* = 0.11 | 4.7 | 〕*P* = 0.94 |
| 32 | - | - | 9.0 | 4.5 |
| Isayama *et al*[59] | 1986-2008 | Retrospective | 28 | Median 50 Gy | 24 Gy (*n* = 11) | 22.1 | 〕*P* = 0.0031 | 50%2 | 〕*P* = 0.0165 |
| 11 | - | - | 5.7 | 0%2 |
| Shinchi *et al*[61] | 1992-1998 | Retrospective | 30  10 | Median 46 Gy3  - | -  - | 10.63  6.43 | 〕*P* < 0.05 | 9.83  3.73 | 〕*P* = 0.0002 |
| Tan *et al*[62] | 2007-2013 | Retrospective | 25  13 | 37.0-40.7 Gy  - | -  - | 12.2  8.9 | 〕*P* = 0.025 | 10.9  6.5 | 〕*P* = 0.022 |

1location not specified; 2crude stent patency rate at 1-yr; 3mean. ERRT: external beam radiotherapy; OS: overall survival.