



Answers to Reviewers comments

November 24, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 6706-review.doc).

Title: Systematic Review of Novel Ablative Methods in Locally Advanced Pancreatic Cancer

Author: Margaret G Keane, Kostas Bramis, Stephen P Pereira, Giuseppe K Fusai.

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 6706

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated to include a core tip, key words, a running title and additional contact details. The title of the article has been changed in line with the reviewers kind suggestion.

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer:

- (1) *Manuscript entitled "A systematic review of novel methods of cytoreduction in locally advanced and metastatic pancreatic cancer" is well prepared. This article is important in its field. Now, Standard options available for treating patients with inoperable PDAC are limited to chemotherapy, radiotherapy, or a combination of the two. Ablative therapies for unresectable pancreatic cancer are an attractive emerging therapy. Dr Keane wrote this review to assess safety and efficacy of each ablation therapy in the treatment of locally advanced or metastatic PDAC. They found ablative therapies may confer an additional survival benefit over best supportive care but randomised studies are required to validate these findings. This review got a rigorous result and demonstrated that ablation is feasible and reproducible. It is meaningful for the treatment of unresectable locally advanced pancreatic cancer. This article is acceptable.*

We thank the reviewer for their supportive assessment of the article. No additional changes to the article were made following this review.

- (2) *Congratulations on a well written systematic review. The authors provide a organized, thorough review of current treatment options for locally advanced pancreatic cancer. I have the following comments: 1) Revise the title. First, cytoreduction general includes removal of tumor. Second, the paper does not address metastatic disease. I would recommend: "A Systematic Review of Novel Methods of Ablation in Locally Advanced Pancreatic Cancer" 2) The authors may consider discussing prior randomized controlled trials and observational studies comparing bypass to resection in metastatic pancreatic cancer. Cytoreduction did not provide survival benefit. This could be included in the intro or conclusion. 3) The authors may consider commenting on RFA for metastatic disease or recurrent disease.*

We thank the reviewers for their supportive comments. We agree completely with the suggested title amendment and have included this suggestion in our article revisions. Points 2 and 3 are important considerations in this topic area and we have included additional information in the revised manuscript.

- (3) *The authors presented an in-depth review of the current methods of cytoreduction in locally advanced and metastatic pancreatic cancer. A total of 32 published reports were evaluated and discussed, including RFA, HIFU, cryoablation, and photodynamic therapy. The idea of such systematic summary is not completely new, but the manuscript is well written and provides some more information compared to other similar reports (e.g. Pancreas. 2011;40:163). Remarks: - In the methods section and figure 1, the authors declare that 32 studies were analysed, while the number of reports in tables 1 to 4 is 37 - Minor language editing is required due to some typographic errors - References are poorly organised with different styles*

We thank the reviewer for their comments. The discrepancy in numbers resulted from our review methodology, which we have further clarified in the updated manuscript. Many of the largest series of cryoablation and HIFU have been published in non-English language journals. Based on the inclusion criteria of this systematic review they would have been excluded, however where an English abstract was available and obtainable we did include their results within the summary tables. The systematic review was made up of 32 Papers: 10 HIFU, 2 PDT, 6 cryotherapy, 11 RFA, 1 IRE, 2 Microwave ablation. The results of 8 further studies published in non-English language journals were included within the summary tables.

3 References and typesetting were corrected in accordance with BPG style.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,



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