

RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Dear Editor

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (12048-review.doc).

Title: Endoscopic Ultrasound Guided Radiofrequency Ablation (EUS-RFA), for Pancreatic Cystic Neoplasms and Neuroendocrine Tumors

Author: Madhava Pai, Nagy Habib, Hakan Senturk, Sundeep Lakhtakia, Nageshwar Reddy, Vito R Cicinnati, Iyad Kaba, Susanne Beckebaum, Panagiotis Drymoussis, Michel Kahaleh, William Brugge

Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery

ESPS Manuscript NO: 12048

The authors would like to thank the reviewers for their insightful comments. We have made every effort to address the issues that they have raised and we feel that this has significantly improved the quality of our manuscript. Please find below a point by point response to the questions posed by the reviewers.

1. Format has been updated.
2. Response to the comments made

Editor's comments

Comment 1. Mr Madhava Pai and Dr William Brugge are both native English speakers and have both revised the manuscript.

Comment 2. Title amended accordingly.

Comment 3. Emcision Limited is a company, department does not apply on this occasion.

Comment 4. Amended accordingly.

Comment 5. Amended accordingly.

Comment 6. Amended accordingly.

Reviewer 02537190

We thank the reviewer for the comments.

Comment 1. Abstract/results section has been amended.

Comment 2. As per suggestions from other reviewers, the inclusion/exclusion criteria were amended.

Comment 3. There are no long term result data available.

Comment 4. Yes, we think that this technique is applicable and could theoretically be indicated for all lesions with high malignant potential irrespective of pancreatic location, provided that the disease is not resectable.

Reviewer 02731744

We thank the reviewer for the comments.

Comment 1. Yes, final diagnosis was obtained by reviewing images at a dedicated HPB MDT meeting in the presence of an expert HPB radiologist. A comment was added at the limitations section as suggested by the reviewer.

Comment 2. As per reviewer 12048, the inclusion criteria section has been amended.

Comment 3. Unfortunately EUS-RFA movies are not available, as the temperature which is implemented creates a lot of artefact on the EUS images; therefore it is not possible to add these images at this stage.

Comment 4. All patients were alive at time of last follow up, this has been added in the corresponding table of the manuscript.

Reviewer 02441744

We thank the reviewer for the comments.

Comment 1. As per suggestions of other reviewers, eligibility criteria section has been amended. In addition we included end points and number of participating centres in the manuscript.

Reviewer 00051373

We thank the reviewer for the comments.

Comment 1. There was every effort to ascertain that the study has followed the Declaration of Helsinki principles in every institution where the technique was applied. In addition the machine is CE approved and follows all the safety prerequisites for such accreditation, therefore, in many participating centres formal IRB approval was not a prerequisite for the use of the device.

Comment 2. Inclusion criteria has been amended according to the suggestion.

Comment 3. Exclusion criteria has been amended according to the suggestion.

Comment 4. The total voltage applied and the time of application are described in the manuscript, section patient and methods, under the subheading "intervention". The RF impedance and the end temperature of the lesion are not observed when one uses this device for RF. As described in the a feasibility study in a porcine model by Amrita et al (Endoscopy 2014; 46: 411-415), impedance and end temperature are not observed – it is rather a ultrasound guided intervention with a set voltage for a predefined time.

Comment 5. Amended according to suggestions.

Reviewer 00001438

We thank the reviewer for the comments. We agree that there are some limitations in this study which we also discuss in the manuscript and we completely agree that studies assessing the efficacy of RFA in these patients could open new roads in the treatment of small pancreatic tumors.

3. References and typesetting were corrected.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery

Sincerely yours,

Nagy Habib

Professor of Surgery, Department of Surgery,
Imperial College London, Hammersmith Hospital Campus,
London, W12 0NN, UK.

Email : nagy.habib@imperial.ac.uk

Tel: +44 (0)20 3313 8574

Fax: +44 (0)20 3313 3212