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**Hepatocellular carcinoma review: Current treatment, and evidence-based medicine**

Karaman B *et al.* Microwave ablation *vs* RF ablation

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**Abstract**

We read the recent article entitled ”Hepatocellular carcinoma review: Current treatment, and evidence-based medicine” by Raza *et al*, published in *World Journal of Gastroenterology*, with great interest. They evaluated treatment of early and advanced stage HCC based on extensive review of relevant literature. Authors reported that radiofrequency ablation is the most effective local ablative therapy. The authors concluded that RF ablation is equivalent to surgical resection in well selected patients in the early stage hepatocellular carcinoma. In addition, we want to mention microwave ablation beside RF ablation.

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**Key words:** Hepatocellular carcinoma; Microwave ablation; Radiofrequency ablation

**Core tip:** We read the recent article entitled” Hepatocellular carcinoma review: Current treatment, and evidence-based medicine” by Raza *et al*, published in World Journal of Gastroenterology, with great interest. They evaluated treatment of early and advanced stage hepatocellular carcinoma based on extensive review of relevant literature. Authors reported that radiofrequency ablation is the most effective local ablative therapy. The authors concluded that radiofrequency ablation is equivalent to surgical resection in well selected patients in the early stage hepatocellular carcinoma. In addition, we want to mention microwave ablation beside RF ablation.

Karaman B, Battal B, Sari S, Verim S. Hepatocellular carcinoma review: Current treatment, and evidence-based medicine. *World J Gastroenterol* 2014; In press

**TO THE EDITOR**

We read the recent article entitled” Hepatocellular carcinoma review: Current treatment, and evidence-based medicine” by Raza *et al*[1], published in *World Journal of Gastroenterology*, with great interest. They evaluated treatment of early and advanced stage HCC based on extensive review of relevant literature. Authors reported that radiofrequency ablation (RF) is the most effective local ablative therapy. The authors concluded that RF ablation is equivalent to surgical resection in well selected patients in the early stage hepatocellular carcinoma. In addition, we want to mention microwave ablation beside RF ablation. Unfortunately RF ablation use is limited by difficulties in heating charred tissue and RF has poor success rates at the tumors near blood vessels that called heat-sink effect. Such limitations to heating can lead to potentially inadequate ablation zone and a higher rate of local tumor progression than with resection[2]. Microwave ablation can heat the tissue faster than RF. In the other hand heating occurs in a large volume around the applicator. It would produce higher intratumoral temperatures, larger ablation zones, less ablation time and less dependence on the electrical conductivities tissue. Its energy delivery is less limited by the exponentially rising electrical impedance of tumor tissue. These advantages may make microwave ablation less affected by heat-sink[3]. The advantage of RF is still it has been considered to be the most common thermal ablation modality worldwide for early stage HCC. Shi *et al*[4] reported that gor solitary HCC ≤ 3 cm, MWA is as effective as surgical resection. In another report it is concluded that both MWA and RFA are safe and effective ablative treatments for liver cancer. Additionally, MWA has the advantage of cost efficiency[5]. In the other hand it is reported that there were no significant differences in morbidity or survival based on the surgical approach; however, local recurrence rates were highest for percutaneously ablated tumors[6].

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