

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS manuscript NO: 23342

Title: THERMAL ABLATION IN COLORECTAL LIVER METASTASES. LACK OF EVIDENCE OR LACK OF CAPABILITY TO PROVE THE EVIDENCE?

Reviewer's code: 01488602

Reviewer's country: Romania

Science editor: Yuan Qi

Date sent for review: 2015-11-11 18:51

Date reviewed: 2015-11-23 22:21

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Correct opinion paper, informative but not easy to read. Some sentences need style improvement. An abbreviated version would allow its acceptance rather as letter to editor.

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Title: THERMAL ABLATION IN COLORECTAL LIVER METASTASES. LACK OF EVIDENCE OR LACK OF CAPABILITY TO PROVE THE EVIDENCE?

Reviewer's code: 02735839

Reviewer's country: Germany

Science editor: Yuan Qi

Date sent for review: 2015-11-11 18:51

Date reviewed: 2015-11-25 19:27

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [Y] Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [Y] Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [Y] Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> [] The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> [] High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> [] Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> [] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> [] Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> [] Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> [] Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> [] Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [Y] No	<input type="checkbox"/> [] Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> [] Grade E: Poor		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> [] Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> [] The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> [] Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> [] Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [Y] No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors present the currently available evidence for local-ablative treatment of irresectable colorectal liver metastases. They succeed in describing the most recent trials and common points of agreement among experts in the field. They close with a quite provocative plea for volunteering in a trial meeting the criteria for evidence based medicine we have all vowed to believe in. From my point of view, all important references are listed in the citations. The thesis is sound, and the language is well written. The authors have to be particularly complimented for the idea to oppose the lack of evidence in showing superiority of a combination of radiofrequency ablation (RFA) and systemic chemotherapy to the lack of evidence for the inferiority of this combination in the treatment of colorectal liver metastases. However, the assault on basic components of our scientific self-conception in the conclusions is slightly exaggerative albeit maybe imaginable. The cited article is interesting and imaginative; expressions like "holy grail" of the exclusively evidence based interventions as well as the suggestion of replacing evidence based medicine by "common sense based" medicine are however frivolous and sometimes even offending. We all try to do our very best



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to offer our patients the optimal chance of survival according to the present state of science as well as common sense. There is no need to monish the readers of the World Journal of Gastroenterology (WJG) to do so in such a way like in the submitted manuscript. I would strongly recommend the acceptance of the manuscript for publication in WJG after revising the conclusions section, since the topic is important and interesting for a wide range of physicians and scientists all over the world. I consider however ameliorating the last claims highly demanded. The authors should focus on a better explanation of the “limits of the evidence based medicine in some particular settings” and the issues “the next trials should aim at exploring these fields of research” rather than offending the scientific basis of clinical research.

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Title: THERMAL ABLATION IN COLORECTAL LIVER METASTASES. LACK OF EVIDENCE OR LACK OF CAPABILITY TO PROVE THE EVIDENCE?

Reviewer's code: 02527499

Reviewer's country: Australia

Science editor: Yuan Qi

Date sent for review: 2015-11-11 18:51

Date reviewed: 2015-12-02 21:40

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Good summary of the use of thermal ablation in colorectal liver metastases