

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*

Manuscript NO: 68674

Title: Role of intraluminal brachytherapy in palliation of biliary obstruction in cholangiocarcinoma – a brief review

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05449950

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Italy

Author's Country/Territory: India

Manuscript submission date: 2021-05-30

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-06-06 08:21

Reviewer performed review: 2021-06-06 08:28

Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Dear Editor, thank you so much for inviting me to revise this manuscript about the cholangiocarcinoma. Understanding the role of these approaches in this setting is a mandatory need. On the basis of the above, it addresses a current topic. The manuscript is quite well written and organized. English must be improved. Tables are comprehensive and clear. However, as you could see below, some points should be elucidated. We suggest the following modifications:

- Introduction section: although the authors correctly included important papers in this setting, we believe a couple of studies should be cited within the introduction (PMID: 33535621 ; PMID: 28466653 ; PMID: 33215952; PMID: 33307876) only for a matter of consistency. We think it might be useful to introduce the topic of this study.
- In addition, we believe some issues deserve further discussion. In everyday clinical practice, we know that the pathologic confirmation of diagnosis is necessary before any non-surgical treatment and can be challenging in BTC, particularly in patients affected by primary sclerosing cholangitis and biliary strictures. In fact, decisions to undertake biopsies should follow a multidisciplinary discussion, especially in potentially resectable tumors. Moreover, endoscopic imaging and tissue sampling are useful but, sadly, biopsy samples are often inadequate for molecular profiling, and in addition, tissue sampling has reported high specificity but low sensitivity in diagnosis of malignant biliary strictures. Finally, the highly desmoplastic nature of BTC limits the accuracy of cytological and pathological approaches. On the basis of these premises, in this scenario, it is urgent to develop new strategies in order to anticipate the diagnosis identifying BTC at an early, resectable stage, and to obtain sufficient material with which to perform genomic analysis. Among

these strategies, liquid biopsy has received growing attention over the years, given the promising applications in cancer patients. More specifically, several studies have shown the potential role of liquid biopsy, and the authors should discuss this point, also reporting recent studies in this setting (doi: 10.3390/cells9030721; doi: 10.21873/cgp.20203). • The authors should include a more personal perspective to reflect on. For example, they could answer to the following questions – in order to facilitate the understanding of this complex topic to readers: what potential do this study hold? What are the knowledge gaps and how do researchers tackle them? How do you see this area unfolding in the next 5 years? We think it would be extremely interesting for the readers, especially considering the challenging landscape of cholangiocarcinoma, where novel treatment options are opening the doors of a new world, with the hope to lower the recurrence rates of these aggressive malignancies. One additional little flaw: the authors should better explain the limitations of their work, in the last part of the Conclusions. We believe this article is suitable for publication in the journal although major revisions are needed. The main strengths of this paper are that it addresses an interesting and very timely question and provides a clear answer, with some limitations.

We suggest a linguistic revision, the addition of some references for a matter of consistency and some clarifications and extensive changes regarding some crucial points in everyday clinical practice of biliary tract cancers.

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Reviewer's code: 03726743

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Professional title: Associate Professor, Director

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Author's Country/Territory: India

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Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
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Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In the manuscript entitled, "Role of intraluminal brachytherapy in palliation of biliary obstruction in cholangiocarcinoma – a brief review", the authors aim to review the role of brachytherapy in palliation of obstructive symptoms in cholangiocarcinoma. This is an interesting and multi-disciplinary subject, and the manuscript is generally fairly well written. Additional and more specific comments and suggestions, many of which can be easily resolved and all of which are intended to improve the manuscript, are provided below: Abstract: - Clarify that surgery is "curative" mainstay of treatment.

- "of the" is not needed in front of the word "patients" Introduction: - "klatskin" should be capitalized as it refers to a surname. - In the phrase "per lac population", what is the meaning of "lac"? - In the sentence "However the disease is resectable only in minority of the cases.", the word "a" should be added before the word "minority". - It should be clarified in the Introduction section (and ideally also in the Abstract), if the review will be addressing ILBT for pCCA, eCCA, or both (and if there is any role for ILBT for iCCA). Clinical features and pathology: - Names of organisms, e.g. *clonorchis sinensis*, should be italicized, and the first letter in the genus name should be capitalized.

Role of brachytherapy - There is quite a bit of (in this reviewer's opinion too much) background information prior to actually getting to the crux of the review. Moreover, this section consists of numerous paragraphs and is several pages long (and then suddenly leads to the Conclusion section); it is difficult to read in current form and would benefit from being subdivided. Figures - There are none, but the review

would be enhanced by a figure of the ILBT catheter and/or a schematic describing how it is performed (percutaneously or by ERCP) General - There are numerous places

throughout the manuscript where readability is compromised, perhaps due to English language review deficiencies. A few of these are mentioned above, but there are many others to address.

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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Reviewer's Country/Territory: Italy

Author's Country/Territory: India

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Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	[<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Grade A: Excellent [<input type="radio"/>] Grade B: Very good [<input type="radio"/>] Grade C: Good [<input type="radio"/>] Grade D: Fair [<input type="radio"/>] Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	[<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Grade A: Priority publishing [<input type="radio"/>] Grade B: Minor language polishing [<input type="radio"/>] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [<input type="radio"/>] Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	[<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Accept (High priority) [<input type="radio"/>] Accept (General priority) [<input type="radio"/>] Minor revision [<input type="radio"/>] Major revision [<input type="radio"/>] Rejection
Peer-reviewer	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Anonymous [<input type="radio"/>] Onymous



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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors modified the manuscript according to our suggestions. We recommend Acceptance.