

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Clinical Oncology

Manuscript NO: 64774

Title: Modulated Electro-Hyperthermia in stage III and IV pancreatic cancer: results of an observational study on 158 patients

Reviewer's code: 05345777

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2021-02-23

Reviewer chosen by: Jin-Lei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-04-12 07:42

Reviewer performed review: 2021-04-14 10:53

Review time: 2 Days and 3 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input 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



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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This observational pilot study provides effective evidence that mEHT association to chemotherapy can enhance its benefit in pancreatic cancer patients. Despite that these results are not verified in a large cohort study, we found it some decision-making roles to the treatment of pancreatic cancer. Combination of mEHT and chemotherapy might be effective therapy. However, there are still some questions. 1.PR, CR, PD should be clarified in methodology. 2.Age should not be considered an issue, since the improvement of survival and tumor response was observed also in older patients (>65 years) with locally advanced pancreatic cancer. Why did the authors not conduct subgroup analysis? Does age interfere with research results? 3.In Overall survival (OS) analysis, the survival curve is crossed, please explain the reason and make further analysis. 4.The authors demonstrated some imbalances distribution between the two subgroups as concerning number of patients and median age. What effect and influence will have on the stability of the results?

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Clinical Oncology

Manuscript NO: 64774

Title: Modulated Electro-Hyperthermia in stage III and IV pancreatic cancer: results of an observational study on 158 patients

Reviewer's code: 02936529

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: FRCS (Hon), MD, PhD

Professional title: Professor, Surgical Oncologist

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Brazil

Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2021-02-23

Reviewer chosen by: Jin-Lei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-04-15 13:57

Reviewer performed review: 2021-04-15 14:40

Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input 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
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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



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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This observational study aims to compare mainly disease-free outcomes of chemotherapy versus its association with electro-hyperthermia for the treatment of locally advanced pancreatic cancer (stage III-IV): Despite of the potential bias inherent to the retrospective nature of the study and as consequence a general heterogenicity of the population in analysis... its is a very well-designed study, with proper statistical methods and minor english discordances.... the review about the subject was widely performed...and the conclusions of the study was properly in accordance with the proposed methods and analysis.

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Clinical Oncology

Manuscript NO: 64774

Title: Modulated Electro-Hyperthermia in stage III and IV pancreatic cancer: results of an observational study on 158 patients

Reviewer's code: 05469117

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Adjunct Professor, Chief Physician, Deputy Director

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2021-02-23

Reviewer chosen by: Jin-Lei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-04-14 12:10

Reviewer performed review: 2021-04-19 17:05

Review time: 5 Days and 4 Hours

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input 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

1. In ABSTRACT (page 5), what's the difference between "locally advanced pancreatic cancer (line 10)" and "stage III-IV pancreatic cancer (line 13)"? Please clarify the tumor staging method.

2. Page 11, According to the drug instructions, gemcitabine has a half-life of 42-94 minutes, and gemcitabine is completely eliminated within 5-11 hours after infusion. How to combine high drug blood concentration with the modulated electro hyperthermia and optimize their synergy if mEHT was administered after CHT or within 48 hours?

3. Page 12 line 1-2, What is the version of RECIST? Is it version 1.4?

4.3. Page 13, Some differences were found between CHT+ mEHT and CHT groups in median age (64 vs 69 years, $p=0.013$), previous RT (2% vs 12%, $P=0.023$), number of previous CHT lines (2 lines: 19% vs 35%, $p=0.037$) and type of chemotherapy. Gemox was the most used chemotherapy in CHT+ mEHT group ($p=0.004$), whereas FOLFOX and FOLFIRINOX were used only in CHT group ($p<0.05$). Are the two groups comparable? In particular, the two groups of chemotherapy efficacy is different.

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

Name of journal: World Journal of Clinical Oncology

Manuscript NO: 64774

Title: Modulated Electro-Hyperthermia in stage III and IV pancreatic cancer: results of an observational study on 158 patients

Reviewer's code: 05469117

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Adjunct Professor, Chief Physician, Deputy Director

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2021-02-23

Reviewer chosen by: Ze-Mao Gong

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-06-23 13:04

Reviewer performed review: 2021-06-23 15:37

Review time: 2 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input 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
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
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



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We agree with the chief editor's opinion and the patient's revision.