Safe microwave ablation of liver cancer in an elderly patient

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CLINICAL CASE
CF, 86-year-old man with HBV infection and liver cirrhosis (CHILD A5, MELD score 7- oesophageal varices Fo) with unifocal HCC 26 mm in size in the right lobe (VIII liver segment) detected by contrast enhanced CT in February 2017 (Fig.1), PSTO (stage A-BCLC classification) AFP 96 ng/mL. The patient refused to be submitted to surgical evaluation.

PROCEDURE
The patient underwent a percutaneous MW ablation session by US-guided insertion of two 17G antennas (60 watts for 10 minutes) under general anesthesia.

FOLLOW UP/ CONCLUSION
The procedure was well tolerated and CT control scan 30 days later showed a homogeneous 3,7 x 2,5 ablation zone (Fig.2), without enhancement in the arterial phase. Using thin applicators and working on low power the operator minimizes risk of side effects and can use percutaneous thermal ablation to safely treat HCC even in elderly patients.

PRODUCT USED
Ablation session using a 2,45Ghz TATO system (Thermal Ablation Treatments for Oncology) and two TATOpro 17G antennas.