

Quality of life in patients with liver tumors treated with holmium-166 radioembolization

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Background

Holmium-166 radioembolization is a palliative treatment option for patients with unresectable hepatic malignancies. Influence on quality of life is further evaluated in this paper.

Objective

To evaluate the effect of holmium-166 radioembolization on quality of life.

Methods

- Candidates for this study were patients treated in HEPAR 1 & HEPAR 2 studies, 15 & 38 patients respectively
- European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) QLQ-C30 version 3.0 and QLQ-LMC21 questionnaires were used to evaluate global health status, symptoms and functioning scores
- 50/53 patients (94%) were compliant, completing a questionnaire at baseline plus at least another one during follow-up
- QoL was evaluated at baseline, at 6 weeks and at 3 months. Patients from HEPAR 2 received questionnaires also at 6-9-12 months
- The last 26 patients enrolled in HEPAR 2 received a questionnaire also at 1 week of follow-up, to better assess post radioembolization syndrome
- At baseline - 45 patients had WHO PS 0; 7 patients had WHO PS 1 and 1 patient had WHO PS 2

Results

- Changes in all categories were most notable at 1 week after treatment. A decline in QoL and a rise on symptoms was observed after 1 week, although not statistically different from baseline. This is coherent with the well-known side effects of radioembolization and could be explained by the post-embolization syndrome
- QoL was not significantly affected over time
- Patients with a WHO PS >0 showed the worst decline in global health status.
- The timing of QoL data collection and the embolic effect due to the microspheres impacted the final results, that could not be compared between different studies and technologies

CONCLUSION

QoL in salvage patients presenting with liver metastasis treated with holmium radioembolization was not significantly affected over time, although a decline was observed during the first week after treatment, which returned to baseline values over time.

A WHO PS > 0 at baseline significantly affected QoL, and this should be a consideration in the patient selection process.

Key Takeaway

- Quality of life in salvage patients with liver metastases treated with holmium-166 radioembolization was not significantly affected over time, although a striking decline was seen during the first week post-treatment