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Stereotactic radiotherapy for unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma: A review

Komal Prabhu[1] and Vincent Lam[1, 2]
[1]Westmead Hospital, Australia
[2]University of Sydney, Australia

Background & Aim: Stereotactic radiotherapy (SRT) has been an emerging non-invasive treatment modality for patients with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) when curative treatments such as resection, chemo-embolization, radiofrequency ablation, cannot be applied. This review evaluates the efficacy and clinical outcomes of SRT.

Method: A literature review was performed to identify studies that complied with our selection criteria and which reported clinical outcomes and/or prognostic factors associated with patients with HCC that had undergone SRT.

Result: The median follow-up was noted to be 14.1 months and the results were based on response evaluation and criteria in solid tumors (RECIST). Analysis showed that 25.6% (0-48.7%) of patients achieved a complete response, 41.3% (28-56%) achieved a partial response, while 17.3% (10-28%) of patients had stable disease. Overall one-year survival was found to be 67.8% (61-79%). Overall the treatment was well tolerated and acute toxicity, evaluated as per the common terminology criteria for adverse events (CTCAE), was mostly transient and tolerable.

Conclusion: SRT appears to be an effective non-invasive treatment for local unresectable HCC with low risk of severe toxicity. These results suggest that SRT can be a good alternative treatment for unresectable HCC unsuitable for standard treatment.

Biography

Komal Prabhu is presently a Senior Resident Medical Officer at Westmead Hospital after finishing her MBBS degree. She has also completed her PhD at The University of Sydney, School of Medicine.

kml.prabhu@gmail.com

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