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ENDOSCOPIC RADIOFREQUENCY ABLATION FOR BILIARY AND PANCREATIC CANCERS

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Pancreatic cancer accounts for 3% of all cancers, is the 3rd most common cause of cancer death, has a 30 month survival of the tumour which is less than 1cm in diameter, less than 1% of patients benefit from surgery and 20% of patients who undergo Whipple's procedure survive for 5 years. Two radiofrequency devices were invented by an Imperial College London spin out company, Emcision Limited (recently acquired by Boston Scientific Inc) trying to treat inperable pancreatic cancers using an endoscopic approach. The EndoHPB (Endoscopic Bipolar Radiofrequency Probe) is a bipolar device delivered endoscopically that has been shown in three different studies to improve survival following radiofrequency ablation prior to biliary stent placement. The EUS-RFA (Endoscopic uitrasound guided radiofrequency ablation) device is a monoplar radiofrequnecy device which is delivered using echoendoscope. In a a multi-centre, pilot safety study in 8 patients 6 had pancreatic cystic neoplasm and two had a neuroendocrine tumours (NET) in the head of pancreas. EUS-RFA was successfully completed in all cases. Among the 6 patients with a cystic neoplasm, post procedure imaging in 3-6 months showed complete resolution of the cysts in 2 cases, whilst in three more there was a 48.4% reduction in size. In the NET patients, there was a change in vascularity and central necrosis after EUS-RFA. No major complications were observed within 48 h of the procedure. This preliminary data suggest that the procedure is straightforward and safe. The response ranged from complete resolution to a 50% reduction in size.

Biography

Nagy Habib is the Head of Surgery at the Hammersmith Campus of Imperial College London, UK. He is a Translational Researcher who pioneered the first clinical trial of the use of plasmid and adenovirus for the treatment of liver cancer, as well as the use of plasmid gene therapy in hydrodynamic gene delivery. He is the Principal Investigator of world first clinical trials published on the use of adult bone marrow-derived stem cells for the treatment of patients with liver insufficiency and CD34+ cells for patients with stroke. He is the Inventor and Co-author on the first publication to describe the use of radiofrequency energy in devices for liver surgery (Habib 4X), and interventional endoscopy (Habib™ EndoHPB and Habib™ EUS-RFA).

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