

Radiotherapy of Cholangiocarcinoma

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Abstract

Unresectable cholangiocarcinoma represents a major therapeutic challenge and outcomes are still not satisfactory. However, there is the hope that recent developments in radiotherapy such as stereotactic body radiotherapy, proton therapy and brachytherapy are able to not only lead to better local control but also to prolong overall survival. Specific bowel protection strategies such as simultaneous integrated protection are required to safely deliver the dose in situations where there is close proximity of the lesions to the bowel. The integration of these techniques into the multimodal treatment approach is thought to become the new standard of care over the coming years. We here review the current state of stereotactic body radiotherapy and high dose rate interstitial brachytherapy.

Key words: cholangiocarcinoma, stereotactic body radiotherapy, simultaneous integrated boost, simultaneous integrated protection, high-dose-rate interstitial brachytherapy