12 Nov. 2015

Editor-in-chief, Annals of Gastroenterology

Ioannis E. Koutroubakis MD, PhD

Dear Professor Koutroubakis,

On behalf of all the authors, I would like to ask you to consider our manuscript entitled “Prospective small bowel mucosal assessment immediately after chemoradiotherapy of unresectable pancreatic cancer using capsule endoscopy” for publication in *Annals of Gastroenterology,* as case reports.

In patients with unresectable locally advanced pancreatic cancer (ULAPC), chemoradiotherapy (CRT) is one of the effective standard therapies. However, there are only a small number of reports on the adverse gastrointestinal effects, especially radiation enteritis. We conducted to evaluate the characteristics of enteritis induced by CRT for ULAPC using capsule endoscopy (CE), and examine the relationship between CE findings and dose distribution.

The study was registered in the University Hospital Medical Network Clinical Trials Registry (UMIN-CTR as number UMIN0000014646).

In this prospective study, three consecutive patients with ULAPC underwent CE before and after CRT to evaluate duodenal and jejunal mucosa. CE after CRT showed duodenitis and proximal jejunitis in all three patients. The most inflamed region was the third part of the duodenum, and this was the closest region to the center of irradiation in dose distribution. All three patients had some digestive symptoms, which might have arisen from radiation duodenitis and proximal jejunitis, and CE might be useful for their diagnosis.

To our knowledge, this is the first reported prospective case series of acute radiation enteritis investigated by CE before and after CRT for ULAPC, and examined the relationship between CE findings and dose distribution. These findings may provide important information for the treatment of ULAPC. We believe that the findings of this study will be of special interest to the readers of Hepato-Gastroenterology. We confirm that this manuscript has not been published elsewhere and is not under consideration by another journal. All authors have approved the manuscript and agree with submission to Hepato-Gastroenterology.

T. Yamashina received five capsule endscopies from Company Covidien (Dublin, Ireland). The other authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries regarding this manuscript. We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Hiroyasu, Iishi MD

Department of Gastrointestinal Oncology,

Osaka Medical Center for Cancer and Cardiovascular Diseases,

3-3 Nakamichi 1-chome, Higashinari-ku,

Osaka 537-8511, Japan

Tel.: (+81)-6-(6972)-1181

Fax: (+81)-6-(6981)-4067

E-mail: iishi-hi@mc.pref.osaka.jp