

International Conference on Oncology & Cancer Therapy

March 18-19, 2019 | London, UK

Selective internal radiation therapy (SIRT) versus Transcatheter arterial chemoembolisation (TACE) in radiology

Grace Moscatelli

Sydney Hospital, Australia

Selective Internal Radiation Therapy (SIRT) and Transcatheter Arterial Chemoembolisation (TACE) are both minimally invasive procedures performed in the angiography suite by an Interventional Radiologist. Patients with primary or secondary liver cancer who are unable to have a surgical resection due to tumour size, position, multifocality or inadequate hepatic reserve may be a suitable candidate for a SIRT or TACE procedure.

Prior to treatment the patient would have baseline imaging scans followed by a consultation. Once the agreed procedure is confirmed further tests and information is given to the patient such as taking blood, ceasing anticoagulants and fasting details to ensure patient is prepared in a safe and timely manner. On the day of the procedure a nurse from the radiology department admits the patient ensuring the patient is prepared properly for the planned procedure while in care of the multidisciplinary team.

To commence the image guided procedure local anaesthetic is administered followed by an arterial puncture on the femoral artery obtaining access where an access needle is followed by guidewires and a thin catheter. The doctor navigates through the patient's blood vessels by injecting radiopaque contrast media while breathing instructions are

performed by the patient to acquire clear images identifying the hepatic artery supplying the liver tumour. This technique enables liver tumours to be selectively irradiated avoiding the portal vein supplying normal liver parenchyma minimising damage to healthy surrounding tissue.

Although these treatments do not permanently cure liver cancer, the aim is to increase survival time and quality of life. The patient may have more than one treatment and when combined with standard chemotherapy survival benefit increases. As with all procedures it is evident risks are involved and post procedure complications may also occur. The risk versus benefit is explained to the patient and any complications requiring intervention would be treated as needed.

Speaker Biography

Grace Moscatelli completed her Bachelor of Nursing at University of Western Sydney and she is currently studying Bachelor of Nursing with Professional Honours Specialising in Anaesthetic and Recovery Nursing at University of Tasmania. She works at a local Sydney hospital in Australia as a Registered Nurse in the Radiology, Nuclear Medicine and PET Department. She has presented at Medical Imaging Nurses Association National Conference in Melbourne, Australia in 2017, Euro Cancer International Conference in Rome, Italy in 2018 and Annual Biomarkers Congress in Osaka, Japan in 2018.

e: grace.moscatelli@health.nsw.gov.au



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