Reviewer's report

Title: Adjuvant radio-chemotherapy for extrahepatic biliary tract cancers

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Reviewer: Liu Houbao

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Doctor Marta Bonet Beltrán and his co-operator have done a good job and displayed a constructive conclusion that the patients with extrahepatic biliary duct cancers (EBDC) could benefit from postoperative adjuvant radiotherapy. EBDC are uncommon malignancies characterized by a poor prognosis with high rates of loco-regional recurrence as well as has been considered the cancers that show no activity on radiotherapy in the past. Though the patients involved in this study were only 23 patients (4 gallbladder, 7 ampullary and 12 cholangiocarcinoma), the authors had performed long-term follow up, investigated and evaluated the effectiveness of the radiotherapy and its toxicities and made analysis precisely. So much so that the conclusion that postoperative radiotherapy with 50-60 Gy was safe and effective for the patients with EBDC could be trusted and be useful for clinical practice. The study depicted meanwhile that the positive surgical margins had a lower loco-regional control, hence the surgeons must do their damnedest to make surgical margins negative.

Fewer work has undertook on this area. The scholars in France, Netherlands, South Korea and China have obtained similar conclusion that postoperative radiotherapy could improve the survival of the patients with EBDC in a way. Hope more institute participate the work and more patients with EBDC involve in the series. Then the more compelled conclusion will come.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests