HYPERTHERMIA ASSOCIATED TO CHEMOTHERAPY (ELF) IN A CASE OF HEPATIC METASTASIS DUE TO A GASTRIC CARCINOMA

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Introduction
Hyperthermia is a non invasive therapy that permits to increase the cytotoxical effect of some chemotherapical drugs without any side effects increasing.

The association of hyperthermia to cytotoxical drugs can be particularly effective in aggressive neoplasies or distant metastasis that had yet been treated with polychemotherapies.

Materials and Methods
The present case is that of a 65 years old patient affected by hepatical metastasis due to a gastric adenocarcinoma. On July 2004 he had a total gastrectomy and aosophagus-jejunum anastomosis with Roux ansa; the histological examination shows an adenocarcinoma moderately differentiated.

On January 2005, after a period of relatively good health 3 hepatical localizations (ecography result) having a diameter between cms 1.3 and 1.7 on segments II, IV and VII.

On March 2005 the patient has hyperthermical therapy applied on the last day of his chemotherapy.

Hyperthermia is effected with external RF at 13.56 MHz through antennas of 180 mms diameter cooled off by bags on the region of the body affected by the cancer; the maximum duration of the treatment is 60-70 minutes with a maximum power of 250-260W.

Chemotherapy is effected following the ELF protocol (Etoposide 150mg/ev x 3, Fluorouracile 650mg/ev x 3, Folic acid 200mg/ev x 3) for 6 sessions.

Results
After the hyperthermia-chemotherapy sessions an ecography and successively a CT scan (October 2005) reveal one sole lesion of 2 cms diameter inside the hepatical hilus and the disappearance of the remaining two lesions. The presence of blood vessels inside the hepatical hilus might have partially hampered the effect of hyperthermia.

Actually the patient is in good general conditions and is having a new chemotherapy (Irinotecan fluorouracile, folic acid) in association with hyperthermia.

Conclusions
Our case-report shows the efficacy of radiofrequencies hyperthermia associated with chemotherapy in a pathology with fatal prognosis such as hepatical metastasis from a gastric tumour.