

Editorial Comment

Editorial Comment on Ischemic proctitis after low-dose-rate brachytherapy using hydrogel spacer for prostate cancer

An absorbable hydrogel spacer (SpaceOAR System; Augmenx, Waltham, MA, USA) has been available in Japan since 2018.¹ The number of patients who received radiation therapy using hydrogel spacer for prostate cancer has been increasing. The wide-spread use of this hydrogel spacer must be expected to reduce rectal dose and rectal morbidity. Meanwhile, some adverse events using hydrogel spacer have been reported. Iinuma *et al.* reported a case of rectal penetration by hydrogel spacer.² Imai *et al.* reported a case of rectal ulcer associated with hydrogel spacer.³ Also, Toriumi *et al.* reported a case of ischemic colitis by hydrogel spacer in this case report.⁴ Fortunately, each case showed a spontaneous healing under conservative therapy. Gathering and analyzing information concerning clinical experiences of hydrogel spacer can make a suitable indication and contra-indication criteria. Also, this effort must be necessary to achieve a safety use of hydrogel spacer and avoid severe adverse events in future.

Nobumichi Tanaka M.D.^{1,2} 

¹Department of Prostate Brachytherapy, Nara Medical University, Kashihara, Nara, Japan, and ²Department of Urology, Nara Medical University, Kashihara, Nara, Japan
sendo@naramed-u.ac.jp

DOI: 10.1002/iju5.12454

Conflict of interest

Nobumichi Tanaka is affiliated with an endowed chair funded by Nihon Medi-Physics Co.

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