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Combination of yttrium–90 radioembolization with stereotactic body radiation therapy in the treatment of portal vein tumor thrombosis

Jason Liu¹, Colton Ladbury¹, Arya Amini¹, Scott Glaser¹, Jonathan Kessler², Aram Lee², Yi-Jen Chen¹

¹ Department of Radiation Oncology, City of Hope National Medical Center, Duarte, CA, USA ² Department of Interventional Radiology, City of Hope National Medical Center, Duarte, CA, USA

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Correspondence:

Yi-Jen Chen Department of Radiation Oncology, City of Hope National Medical Center, 1500 E Duarte Rd, Duarte 91010, USA Tel: +1-626-218-2972 Fax: +1-626-218-5534 E-mail: yichen@coh.org ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8022-3316 **Purpose:** Portal vein tumor thrombosis (PVTT) from cancer involving the liver carries a dismal prognosis, with median overall survival (OS) ranging from 2 to 5 months. While treatment with yttrium-90 (⁹⁰Y) radioembolization alone may improve outcomes, overall prognosis remains poor. We hypothesize that the combination of ⁹⁰Y radioembolization to the parenchymal component of the tumor and stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT) to the vascular component is a safe and effective means of improving outcomes.

Materials and Methods: A single center retrospective review identified 12 patients with cancers involving the liver who received both ⁹⁰Y radioembolization and SBRT to the PVTT between May 2015 to August 2020. Primary endpoint was the 90-day toxicity rate by the Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events version 5.0. Secondary endpoints were the best response rate based on the Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors v1.1, local control rate, portal vein (PV) patency rate, and median OS.

Results: Patients received a median ⁹⁰Y dose of 104.3 Gy (range, 83.3 to 131.7 Gy) and a median 5-fraction SBRT dose of 32.5 Gy (range, 27.5 to 50 Gy). There were no late toxicities reported, and only 7 acute grade 1 toxicities reported: elevation of liver function tests (17%), nausea (17%), fatigue (17%), and esophagitis (8%). Local control was 83%. 58% of patients had a patent PV after treatment. With a median follow-up time of 28 months, 1-year OS was 55% with a median OS of 14 months.

Conclusion: Combination ⁹⁰Y radioembolization and SBRT appears to be safe and effective in the treatment of PVTT. Larger prospective studies are warranted to better evaluate this combination treatment approach.

Keywords: Liver, Portal vein, Hepatocellular carcinoma, Therapeutic embolization, Stereotactic body radiotherapy

Introduction

Portal vein tumor thrombosis (PVTT) is a common complication of tumors involving the liver, occurring in about 40%–60% of cases of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) [1]. PVTT is commonly associated with portal vein (PV) hypertension, impaired liver function, and

liver failure. Prognosis of PVTT is poor, with median survival ranging from 2 to 5 months with best supportive care [2,3]. There is currently no widely accepted consensus for the management of PVTT. Treatment options include systemic therapy, surgery, arterially directed therapies such as radioembolization, or external beam radiation. The most evident survival advantages can be attributed to

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surgery, with a median overall survival (OS) up to 37 months, although many patients with advanced cancer are poor surgical candidates [4–6].

Yttrium-90 (⁹⁰Y) radioembolization is one viable treatment option in patients unable to undergo surgery. However, objective response rates with ⁹⁰Y radioembolization alone in patients with PVTT are approximately 50% [7]. There is growing evidence that stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT) is also a potentially viable option for PVTT, although SBRT is rarely used alone to cover the entire area of disease in the liver [8-11]. Here, we hypothesize that the combination of ⁹⁰Y radioembolization to the parenchymal component of the tumor and SBRT to the vascular invasion component is a safe and effective means of improving outcomes.

Materials and Methods

1. Data collection

We retrospectively identified 12 patients with cancers involving the liver and associated PVTT who received both ⁹⁰Y radioembolization and SBRT to the PVTT between May 2015 and August 2020. The Institutional Review Board of City of Hope National Medical Center (No. 21240) approval was obtained for this study. The informed consent was waived as this was a retrospective study. Demographic, clinical, and treatment factors were recorded. Primary endpoints were treatment complication rate and toxicity rate by the Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (CTCAE) version 5.0. All toxicities \leq 3 months (90 days) after treatment completion were considered acute, and all others were considered late. Toxicities were reported during weekly on treatment visits and 1-3 month follow-up visits by the attending or resident physician. When quantifying hepatic impairment, the following criteria were used based on the CTCAE v5.0: grade 1, alanine aminotransferase/aspartate aminotransferase (ALT/AST) 1-3.0 times the upper limit of normal (ULN) or bilirubin 1-1.5 times ULN; grade 2, ALT/AST 3-5 times ULN or bilirubin 1.5-3 times ULN; grade 3, ALT/AST 5-20 times ULN or bilirubin 3-10 times ULN; grade 4, ALT/AST > 20 times ULN or bilirubin > 10 times ULN. For the purposes of our analysis, we chose to use the term "elevated liver function tests (LFTs)" to capture this toxicity. Toxicity data is recorded for all patients using a "toxicity assessment" smartsheet on the Epic electronic medical record system. This is a regular part of our workflow and is almost always filled out.

Secondary endpoints were the best response rate, PV patency rate, 1-year OS rate, and median OS. Best response rates were determined based on the Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors criteria (RECIST v1.1). Treatment response was evaluated based on the vascular component of treatment. A complete response (CR) was defined as no tumor within the PV, a partial response (PR) was defined as decreased tumor within the PV, stable disease (SD) was defined as stable tumor within the PV, and progressive disease (PD) was defined as tumor growing within the PV. PV patency was determined based on radiologist report and viewing the scan for confirmation. 1-year OS rate was based on the time from start of SBRT to the time of death or most recent follow-up.

2. Treatment

All patients were reviewed in a weekly multidisciplinary tumor board dedicated to upper gastrointestinal malignancies. It is our general principle to use 90Y radioembolization followed by SBRT to treat patients all patients who are not surgical candidates with HCC with PVTT. Reasons that may preclude a patient from surgery include co-morbidities such as cirrhosis and diffuse or multifocal disease. Our approach has been to deliver ⁹⁰Y radioembolization to treat the parenchymal component of the tumor followed by SBRT to the vascular invasion component of the tumor. SBRT was typically planned from the start. When we first started this combination treatment modality, we waited until after 90 days after ⁹⁰Y radioembolization to initiate SBRT because we typically do not see the maximum effect of ⁹⁰Y until after 90 days. However, our experience has progressively shown that PVTT does not respond to ⁹⁰Y alone, so we have been more routinely offering SBRT sooner within 1-3 months and not wait 90 days to evaluate response. Fig. 1 illustrates the overall timeline for 90Y radioembolization and SBRT treatment planning and evaluation.

For ⁹⁰Y radioembolization, all patients underwent a standardized pretreatment workup consisting of clinical evaluation, laboratory and imaging assessment, a mapping angiographic procedure, and technetium-99 macroaggregated albumin scintigraphy. ⁹⁰Y-microspheres (Sirtex, Woburn, MA, USA) were administered to the appropriate segmental or lobar feeding arteries. Our institutional practice is to give the ⁹⁰Y activity that will result in the intended volume of the liver receiving between 80 to 150 Gy. There were no whole liver ⁹⁰Y treatments in this cohort. After treatment, patients routinely underwent a limited positron emission tomography/computed tomography (PET/CT) scan to visualize areas of inflammation to approximate ⁹⁰Y uptake.

For SBRT treatments, all patients underwent a four-dimensional CT simulation scan. Patients received IV contrast and were immobilized using a VacLoc. In patients with adequate lung function, end expiratory breath holding was used to minimize breathing-related liver motion, otherwise respiratory gating was used. The gross tumor volume (GTV) defined as the primary lesion in the PV was delineated using the CT simulation image and/or fused magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan. For patients undergoing respiratory

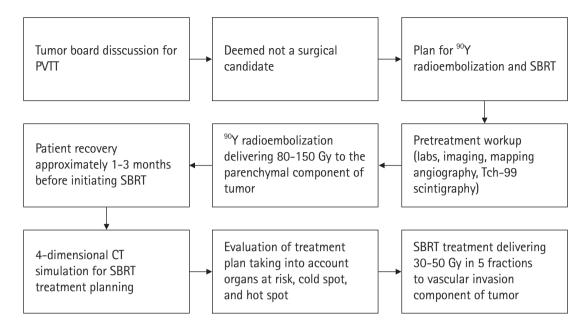


Fig. 1. Timeline of yttrium–90 (⁹⁰Y) radioembolization and stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT) planning and evaluation. PVTT, portal vein tumor thrombosis; CT, computed tomography.

gating, the internal target volume (ITV) was delineated similarly, making sure to include the primary lesion in all phases of breathing during which the patient will be treated. The planning target volume (PTV) was defined as the GTV or ITV plus a 5-mm radial margin. Dose was prescribed to 95% of the PTV. For treatment planning for 5-fraction SBRT, dose constraints commonly used were liver $V_{\rm 15}$ <700 mL, duodenum $D_{\rm max}$ <32 Gy, esophagus $D_{\rm max}$ <35Gy, and spinal cord D_{max} < 30 Gy. To limit hot spots, max dose within the target was limited to < 110%. Unfortunately, there was no method to account for the prior radiation dose delivered to the normal liver via 90Y radioembolization. Generally, SBRT to the vascular invasion component of the tumor contributed very little radiation to the normal liver given its focused target area. However, if there is concern for normal liver receiving too much radiation from both treatments, the limited PET/CT scan obtained after 90Y can be used to crop the SBRT treatment volume off of overlapping liver volumes. For treatment delivery, image guidance with cone beam CT was used to verify positioning before each treatment. Fiducial markers were used in select patients. SBRT was delivered every other day up to a total of 5 fractions.

3. Statistical analysis

Descriptive statistics such as medians for continuous variables and frequencies for categorical variables were used to describe patient characteristics. Median follow-up time (from the completion of SBRT) was calculated with the reverse survival method. Survival analyses were performed using Kaplan-Meier analysis and Cox regression for univariate analysis. All analyses were done using the statistical software SPSS version 26 (IBM, Armonk, NY, USA). All tests used a significance level < 0.05.

Results

1. Patient demographics

A total of 12 patients received the combination of ⁹⁰Y and SBRT for PVTT from May 2015 to August 2020. Baseline patient characteristics were gathered and shown in Table 1. None of the patients had any prior treatment such as surgical resection, liver transplant, or systemic therapy. Most patients were 65 years or older (68%), male (68%), had a primary diagnosis of HCC (75%), the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) performance status of 0 (58%), Child–Pugh class A (75%), with PVTT in the left or right PV (75%).

Patients received a median 90 Y dose of 104.3 Gy (range, 83.3 to 131.7 Gy) to a median volume of 846 mL (range, 675 to 1,068 mL). Most patients had a 1- to 3-month interval between 90 Y and SBRT (75%). Patients received a median SBRT dose of 32.5 Gy in 5 fractions (range, 27.5 to 50 Gy in 5 fractions) to a median volume of 91.3 mL (range, 14.7 to 623.2 mL). The most common fractionation was 30 Gy in 5 fractions. There were three patients with progression of parenchymal disease in the time between 90 Y and SBRT. These three patients with disease progression had a larger PTV volume (range, 266.1 to 623.2 mL) than patients who did not have disease progression (range, 14.7 to 192.4 mL) to cover additional areas of parenchymal disease.

Table 1. Summary of patient demographics, clinical factors, and treatment variables (n = 12) $\,$

	Value
Age (yr)	65.5 (56–83)
< 65	5 (42)
≥ 65	7 (58)
Sex	
Male	7 (58)
Female	5 (42)
Race	
White	5 (42)
Hispanic	2 (17)
Asian	5 (42)
Diagnosis	
HCC	9 (75)
Cholangiocarcinoma	2 (17)
Neuroendocrine liver metastasis	1 (8)
ECOG performance status	
0	7 (58)
1	4 (33)
2	1 (8)
Child–Pugh classification	
A	9 (75)
В	3 (25)
С	0 (0)
Location of PVTT	
Segmental branch	2 (17)
Left/right PV	9 (75)
Main PV	1 (8)
⁹⁰ Y dose (Gy)	104.3 (83.3–131.7)
⁹⁰ Y volume (mL)	846 (675–1,068)
Five-fraction SBRT dose (Gy)	32.5 (27.5–50)
<30	3 (25)
30–35	4 (33)
40-45	3 (25)
≥50	2 (17)
Days between ⁹⁰ Y and SBRT	2 (17)
<30	1 (8)
30–60	5 (42)
60–90	2 (17)
>90	4 (33)
PTV volume (mL)	
< 50	91.3 (14.7–623.2)
	2 (17) 5 (42)
50-100	5 (42)
100-250	2 (17)
250-500	2 (17)
> 500	1 (8)
Previous treatments	a (a)
Surgical resection	0 (0)
Liver transplant	0 (0)
Systemic therapy	0 (0)
Maintenance therapy afterwards	
Yes	7 (58)
No	5 (42)
Values are presented as median (range) or	number (%).

HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; ECOG, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group; PVTT, portal vein tumor thrombosis; PV, portal vein; 90 Y, yttri-um-90; SBRT, stereotactic body radiation therapy; PTV, planning target volume.

Most patients were treated using end expiration breath-hold (75%), and the remaining were treated using respiratory gating. Fifty-eight percent of patients received some form of maintenance therapy after local treatment such as sorafenib, lenvatinib, bevacizumab, or nivolumab.

2. SBRT related toxicities

A summary of SBRT related toxicities can be seen in Table 2. Of the 12 patients in this study, 17% developed acute grade 1 elevation of LFTs, 17% developed acute grade 1 nausea, 17% developed acute grade 1 fatigue, and 8% developed acute grade 1 esophagitis. The total rate of grade 1 toxicity was 59%. There were no grade 2+ acute toxicities or late toxicities or treatment complications reported. As mentioned above, the interval between ⁹⁰Y and SBRT was shortened from over 3 months to 1–3 months after our experience showed PVTT rarely responds to ⁹⁰Y alone. After shortening the interval, we observed no increase in acute toxicities in patients treated with a 1- to 3-month interval (5/8 patients) vs. patients treated with >3-month interval (2/4 patients), although sample sizes are too small to draw any conclusions. Individual patient level demographics and toxicities can be seen in Table 3.

3. Response rates and survival

Based on RECIST criteria v1.1, the CR rate was 8%, the PR rate was 42%, the SD rate was 33%, and the PD rate was 17%. After shortening the interval between 90 Y and SBRT from over 3 months to 1–3 months, we observed no difference in response rates in patients treated with a 1– to 3–month interval (7/8 patients with CR+PR+SD) vs. patients treated with >3–month interval (3/4 pa-

Table 2. Summary of toxicities, response rates, and PV patency

	Value
SBRT related toxicities	
Acute grade 1 elevated LFTs	2 (17)
Acute grade 1 nausea	2 (17)
Acute grade 1 fatigue	2 (17)
Acute grade 1 esophagitis	1 (8)
Late toxicities	0 (0)
Best response by RECIST v1.1	
Complete response	1 (8)
Partial response	5 (42)
Stable disease	4 (33)
Progressive disease	2 (17)
PV patency after treatment	
Yes	7 (58)
No	5 (42)

Values are presented as number of patients (%).

PV, portal vein; SBRT, stereotactic body radiation therapy; LFT, liver function test; RECIST, Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors.

tients with CR+PR+SD), although sample sizes are too small to draw any conclusions. The local control rate (CR+PR+SD) was 83% (Fig. 2). On follow-up imaging, 58% patients had a patent PV. With a median follow-up of 29 months, 1-year OS was 55% and median OS was 14 months (Fig. 3). A summary of response rate, PV patency rate, and 1-year OS rate can be seen in Table 2. Individual patient level demographics, response rates, and 1-year OS rates can be seen in Table 3.

A univariate analysis was performed to determine predictors for improved OS (Table 4). The only variable to be significantly associated with improved OS was treatment response, dichotomized into CR+PR+SD versus PD (p < 0.001). Age, sex, diagnosis, performance status, Child–Pugh, location of PVTT, ⁹⁰Y dose, total SBRT dose, PTV volume, interval between ⁹⁰Y and SBRT, and receiving maintenance therapy after local treatment were not significantly associated with OS. Fig. 3 shows the Kaplan-Meier curve comparing OS for responders to ⁹⁰Y-SBRT versus non-responders. Median OS for treatment responders was 33 months versus 2 months for treatment non-responders (p < 0.001).

Discussion and Conclusion

There is currently insufficient data supporting the safety of combination therapy. Previous consensus statements have stated previous ⁹⁰Y radioembolization as a relative contraindication to SBRT due to concern of the liver receiving too much radiation [12]. However, there has been a growing number of radiation oncologists comfortable with offering SBRT after ⁹⁰Y radioembolization based on anecdotal evidence that it can be delivered safely. In this retrospective analysis, we show that the combination of ⁹⁰Y and SBRT is safe and well tolerated in the treatment of PVTT.

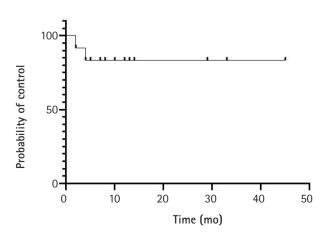


Fig. 2. Local control for all patients.

₽	Age (yr) Sex	Sex	Race	Diagnosis	ECOG PS	Child- Puah	⁹⁰ Y dose (Gv)	⁹⁰ Y volume (mL)	⁹⁰ Y-SBRT in- terval (mo)		SBRT dose SBRT volume (Gv) (mL)	Response	PV patency OS (mo)	0S (mo)	SBRT related toxicities
-	67	ш	White	HCC	0	A	83.3	675	1	50	64.2	PR	Yes	13+	Grade 1 fatigue
2	65	Σ	Asian	HCC	0	Ю	110.6	897	-	30	91.8	SD	No	12+	None
e	47	Σ	White	HCC	-	A	124.7	1,011	2	30	150.9	SD	No	5+	Grade 1 nausea
4	81	ш	White	HCC	٢	A	6.96	810	-	40	266.1	PD	No	2	Grade 1 elevated LFTs
2	57	Σ	Asian	HCC	-	A	131.7	1,068	4	50	192.4	PR	Yes	8	Grade 1 fatigue
9	57	ш	Hispanic	Liver metastasis	-	A	103.6	840	с	27.5	61.1	CR	Yes	14	None
7	71	Σ	White	HCC	0	В	91.4	741	2	35	90.9	PD	No	4	Grade 1 nausea
œ	61	ш	Asian	CCC	0	A	105.1	852	2	27.5	23.2	SD	Yes	45+	None
6	67	Σ	White	HCC	2	В	121.4	984	1	30	60.4	SD	No	7	None
10	56	ш	Hispanic	CCC	0	A	99.5	807	2	40	386.6	PR	Yes	10+	Grade 1 esophagitis
11	99	Σ	Asian	HCC	0	A	97.7	792	2	45	623.2	PR	Yes	29+	Grade 1 elevated LFTs
12	83	Σ	Asian	HCC	0	A	107.3	870	5	27.5	14.7	PR	Yes	33	None

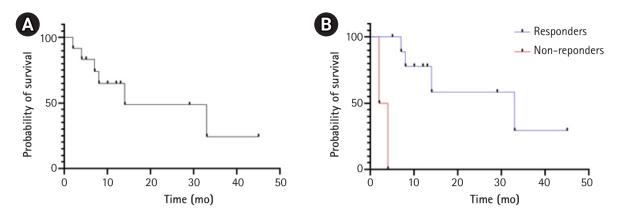


Fig. 3. (A) Kaplan-Meier curve for all patients. Median overall survival (OS) was 14 months. (B) Kaplan-Meier curve comparing ⁹⁰Y-SBRT responders (CR+PR+SD) versus non-responders (PD). Median OS for responders was 33 months versus 2 months for non-responders (p < 0.001). SBRT, stereotactic body radiation therapy; ⁹⁰Y, yttrium-90; CR, complete response; PR, partial response; SD, stable disease; PD, progressive disease.

	Table 4. Univariate	analysis for	predictors of	overall survival
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	p-value
Diagnosis	· ·
Cholangiocarcinoma vs. HCC	0.832
Neuroendocrine liver metastasis vs. HCC	0.863
Age (yr)	
≥65 vs. <65	0.511
Sex	0.888
Male vs. female	
Child-Pugh classification	0.358
B vs. A	
Dose fractionation	
30–35 Gy vs. < 30 Gy in 5 fx	0.915
40–45 Gy vs. < 30 Gy in 5 fx	0.819
50+ Gy vs. < 30 Gy in 5 fx	0.781
PTV volume (mL)	
50–100 vs. < 50	0.866
100–250 vs. < 50	0.736
250–500 vs. < 50	0.607
500+ vs. < 50	0.429
Treatment response	
Responders (SD+PR+CR) vs. non-responders (PD)	0.001

HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; PTV, planning target volume; CR, complete response; PR, partial response; SD, stable disease; PD, progressive disease.

Recently, published data has suggested that the combination of arterial therapy and SBRT can be performed safely with good shortterm outcomes. A randomized clinical trial by Yoon et al. [13], prospectively compared transarterial chemoembolization (TACE) plus external beam radiotherapy versus sorafenib in HCC with macroscopic vascular invasion. It was found that first-line treatment with TACE plus SBRT was well tolerated and had improved progression-free survival (PFS), objective response rate, and OS compared to sorafenib. Hardy-Abeloos et al. [14] retrospectively identified 68 patients with HCC who received SBRT after TACE and 31 patients who received SBRT after 90 Y radioembolization. The rate of grade \geq 3 toxicities were similar between TACE-SBRT and 90 Y-SBRT (13% vs. 9.4%). One-year LC rate for 90 Y-SBRT was 97%, and the median OS for 90 Y-SBRT was not reached after 18 months. In the 90 Y-SBRT arm, 14 patients (45%) achieved a CR, while 5 patients (16%) achieved a PR. Fourteen patients (14%) had PVTT (8 in the TACE-SBRT arm and 6 in the 90 Y-SBRT arm), but this study did not specifically analyze this population.

The current study supports this previous report that combination ⁹⁰Y radioembolization and SBRT can be performed safely. In the current study, no acute or late grade \geq 3 toxicities were identified. Several factors may account for this. Firstly, the current study had a lower median SBRT dose of 32.5 Gy in 5 fractions compared to a median SBRT dose of 40 Gy in 5 fractions in the previous study. Furthermore, our median PTV volume was smaller at 91.3 mL compared to 103.1 mL. Also, less parenchyma was included in the PTV since the SBRT was only targeting the PVTT. Our sample size was also much smaller, which may account for the lack of patients reporting grade \geq 3 toxicities.

The efficacy of combination therapy in the current study is also encouraging. One patient (8%) who achieved a CR and 5 patients (42%) achieved a PR in the current study. This is lower than seen in the previous report of combination therapy, where CR and PR were 45% and 16% respectively. Similarly, the current study's 1-year OS rate was also lower at 55% with a median OS of 14 months compared to 70% with a median OS not reached after 18 months in the previous trial. However, these findings are expected given the overall worse response rates and survival in patients with PVTT (Fig. 4).

Several previous studies have analyzed the outcomes of combination therapy or SBRT alone in patients with PVTT and demonhttps://doi.org/10.3857/roj.2021.00213

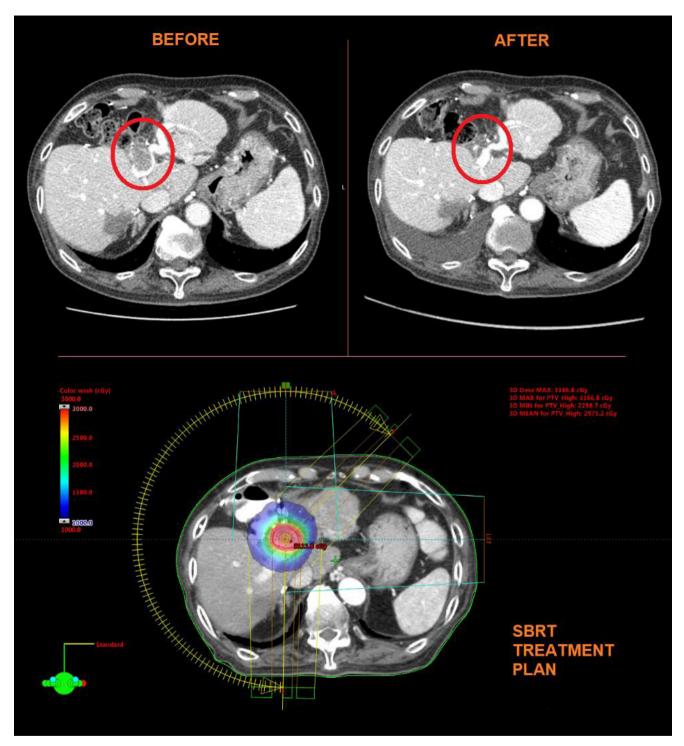


Fig. 4. Example of a SBRT plan to the PVTT and near CR after treatment. Patient #12 was an 83-year-old Asian male with hepatocellular carcinoma who received surgery, transarterial chemoembolization, and sorafenib, but progressed with worsening PVTT. Patient was treated with ⁹⁰Y radioembolization 107.3 Gy followed by SBRT 27.5 Gy in 5 fractions. Patient had near CR 3 months after SBRT. SBRT, stereotactic body radiation therapy; PVTT, portal vein tumor thrombosis; CR, complete response.

strate similar efficacy to the current report. A retrospective study of 37 patients with HCC with PVTT received TACE followed by SBRT found a CR rate of 16.2% and a PR rate of 54% [15]. These values are slightly higher than those of our study (8% and 42%, respec-

tively). Furthermore, the 1-year OS rate was 54.1% with a median OS of 15 months, which is closely in line with our study (55% with median OS of 14 months).

Another retrospective study of 24 patients with HCC with PVTT

treated with SBRT found a CR rate of 8.3% and a PR rate of 45.8% [16]. Another retrospective study of 70 patients with HCC with PVTT treated with SBRT found a 1-year OS rate of 40% with a median OS of 10 months [17]. The current study demonstrated a 1-year OS rate of 55% with a median OS of 14 months.

In the univariate analysis, only response to ⁹⁰Y-SBRT was associated with improved OS, with patients who achieved a CR, PR, or SD after treatment had a significantly longer median OS compared to those who had PD (33 months vs. 2 months; p < 0.001) (Fig. 3). This is consistent with two previous studies. One retrospective study examining SBRT for PVTT found that patients who achieved a CR, PR, or SD had a median OS of 13 months versus 4 months for patients who had PD [17]. Another retrospective study examining SBRT for PVTT found that patients with controlled disease had a median OS of 18.8 months versus 7.8 months in those with local progression [18]. This is reasonable, as PD can result in complete occlusion of the PV, eventually leading to liver failure. These two studies also identified other predictors for OS not found in our study, including PVTT location, a biologically effective dose (BED) > 100 Gy, and a smaller GTV volume [17,18]. The absence of these associations in the current study may be due to the small sample size of the current study.

While the results of our study are promising, there are several limitations. The analysis is retrospective and single institution, so results will need to be prospectively validated. Furthermore, the sample size of 12 makes it difficult to perform any meaningful statistical analysis examining predictors of improved response or survival. However, as a feasibility study, our goal is to simply report that ⁹⁰Y-SBRT for PVTT is safe and can offer adequate LC and improved OS. Larger prospective studies are warranted to better evaluate this combined treatment modality and determine what factors may predict for improved outcomes.

Despite these limitations, our study shows that the combination of ⁹⁰Y radioembolization and SBRT is a safe and well-tolerated treatment for PVTT. There were no recorded grade 2+ toxicities. Successful treatment may result in improved survival. As always, having a multi-disciplinary approach to treating advanced liver cancer with PVTT is the best approach to maximizing patients' quality of life and survival.

Conflict of Interest

No potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.

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