

INTERNET NEWS

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NEWS | INTERVENTIONAL

effective for knee osteoarthritis for up to 2 years

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Genicular artery embolization (GAE) for mild-to-moderate knee osteoarthritis can provide pain relief for patients for up to two years, according to an article published May 15 in *Journal of Vascular and Interventional Radiology*.

A follow-up study of patients who underwent the minimally invasive procedure found that GAE represents a valuable alternative in managing mild-to-moderate knee osteoarthritis patients, a group at University of Reading in the U.K. reported.

"This was particularly beneficial for patients who experience high pain catastrophizing and disability," noted lead author Mark Little, MD, and colleagues.

GAE is an emerging minimally invasive intervention for patients with painful knee osteoarthritis who are refractory to other treatments or who are reluctant to undergo total knee replacement surgery. The procedure involves inserting catheters and injecting microembolic particles to target genicular arteries that supply the synovial lining of the knee joint. The microembolic particles block blood flow, which reduces pain signals and provides relief, the authors explained.

ials have shown promising results, yet to date, psychometric variables are not fully considered, and a solely pathophysiological assessment is often ineffective.

end, the group studied outcomes in 40 patients up to two years after treatment. Results were based on their scores on the Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) and Pain Catastrophizing Scale (PCS), two common tools for quantifying subjective pain experiences.

Of the 40 patients, 39 reported outcomes at six weeks, with one patient missing follow-up. Forty patients completed follow-up at three months, 37 completed follow-up at one year, and 28 patients at two years.

According to the analysis, at six weeks, patients who had higher levels of "pain catastrophizing" (engaging in catastrophizing thoughts about pain) based on their scores at baseline experienced greater reductions in pain. Also, there was a significant decrease in VAS scores from 58.63 at baseline to 37.7 at two years, the group

At the two-year time point, 20 patients who had been using regular Paracetamol and 10 patients who had been using NSAIDs for managing pain had significant increases in usage, the researchers added.

"GAE is a safe intervention for mild-moderate knee osteoarthritis, with sustained efficacy at two years. These results are promising and justify ongoing controlled trials," the group wrote.

Ultimately, the study supports the use of GAE without the need for retreatment to gain symptomatic control, as well as provides evidence that GAE can have results well beyond the expected duration of the placebo effect, the researchers wrote.

Limitations of the study included the relatively small sample size and lack of a sham experimental control group, they noted.

"Future studies should investigate optimal embolic materials, longitudinal outcomes, biomarkers, and neuropsychological phenotypes in order to elucidate the ideal patient population for GAE," the group concluded.

AL NEWS | INTERVENTIONAL

CO: Thermal ablation comparable to surgery for liv tastases

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colorectal cancer patients with small liver metastases with thermal ablation as an alternative to surgical resection, a study presented June 3 at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) meeting found.

Choosing thermal ablation as the standard of care would benefit patients, presenter Mark W. Johnson, MD, PhD, from Amsterdam University Medical Center in the Netherlands. Johnson shared results from the Colorectal Liver Metastases: Surgery vs. Thermal Ablation (COLM) trial.

“Switching from surgical resection to thermal ablation as standard of care for patients with small-size colorectal liver metastases would reduce complications, shorten hospital stay, and improve quality of life without compromising disease-free and overall survival,” he said.

“The growing evidence in favor of thermal ablation for treating cancer as opposed to surgical resection as standard of care, which is surgical resection. Previous research suggests that thermal ablation offers a better safety profile, lower costs, and shorter hospital stays, while also being non-inferior to surgical resection in terms of local control and overall survival.

Johnson and co-authors explored the potential non-inferiority of thermal ablation compared to surgical resection for patients with small-size resectable colorectal liver metastases.

The III randomized-controlled clinical trial included data from 295 patients. 148 were assigned to thermal ablation while the remaining 148 were assigned to surgical resection. The researchers noted that the trial was stopped at halftime for having met predefined stopping rules.

With a median follow-up time of 28.8 months, the results showed no significant difference between the two methods in terms of overall survival, including a hazard ratio (HR) of 1.0 with a conditional probability of greater than 90%.

The researchers also found that procedure-related mortality and length of hospital stay favored thermal ablation.

Comparison between thermal ablation, surgical resection

	Resection	Ablation	p-value
Procedure-related mortality	2.1%	0%	N/A
Length of hospital stay	4 days	1 day	< 0.001

researchers also reported that the total number of adverse events ($p < 0.001$) compared to local control (HR, 0.184; $p = 0.03$) also favored thermal ablation. Finally, they found no differences regarding local (HR, 0.833; $p = 0.53$) and distant relapse-free survival (HR, 0.982; $p = 0.09$).

The study drew praise from the Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR), which called it “tremendous news” for patients worldwide. SIR congratulated the researchers for their “groundbreaking” research.

Interventional radiologists are uniquely suited to offer thermal ablation due to their extensive training in imaging, image-guided treatments, and clinical care. This was stated in a [news release](#). “We hope the full data are published soon so we can formalize this treatment in the field, move the standard of care forward, and give our patients new hope for not just treatment but recovery.”

NEWS | INTERVENTIONAL

ablation effective in women with breast cancer

minimally invasive procedure called cryoablation that uses ice to freeze and destroy breast tumors has proven effective for women with large breast cancer tumors, according to a study presented March 27 at the Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR) meeting in Salt Lake City.

The study suggests the technique may provide a new treatment path for women who are not candidates for lumpectomy, or surgical removal, noted Yolanda Bryce, an interventional radiologist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, and senior author of the study.

"Surgery is still the best option for tumor removal, but there are thousands of women who, for various reasons, cannot have surgery," Bryce said, in a [new release](#) from SIR. "We are optimistic that this can give more women hope and control over their cancer treatment journeys."

Cryoablation uses imaging guidance typically with ultrasound or CT to locate the tumor. An interventional radiologist then inserts small, needle-like probes into the tumor to create an ice ball that surrounds the tumor and kills the cancer cells.

s research suggests that when the procedure is combined with hormone therapy and radiation, patients can have nearly 100% of their tumors destroyed. To date, however, the treatment has been successfully used only on tumors smaller than 1.5 cm.

The research was presented during the meeting's closing plenary session by Jonathan D. Sussman, MD, a radiology resident at Weill Cornell Medicine. The study evaluated cryoablation in 60 patients with primary breast cancer tumors larger than 1.4 cm who were not surgical candidates or who refused surgery. Patients underwent cryoablation between January 2017 and March 2023. Out of the 60 treated patients, 55 had invasive ductal carcinoma, five patients had invasive lobular carcinoma, and one patient had other histology. Tumor size ranged from 0.3 cm to 9 cm, with a median size of 2.5 cm.

The treatment consisted of a freeze-thaw cycle ranging between 18 to 28 minutes, followed by active thaw to remove the probes, which was performed with minimal sedation, depending on the eligibility and preference of the patient. Patients were able to go home on the same day once the treatment was complete.

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The research was presented during the meeting's closing plenary session by J. Michael Lee, MD, a radiology resident at Weill Cornell Medicine. The study evaluated the effectiveness of cryoablation in 60 patients with primary breast cancer tumors larger than 1.4 cm who were not surgical candidates or who refused surgery. Patients underwent cryoablation from January 2017 and March 2023. Out of the 60 treated patients, 48 had ductal carcinoma, five patients had invasive lobular carcinoma, and seven patients had atypical hyperplasia. Tumor size ranged from 0.3 cm to 9 cm, with average size of 2.5 cm. Treatment consisted of a freeze-thaw cycle ranging between 18 to 28 minutes, followed by active thaw to remove the probes, which was performed with minimal sedation, depending on the eligibility and preference of the patient. Patients are able to go home on the same day once the treatment was complete.

CLINICAL NEWS | MRI

MRI/ultrasound combination effective for treating prostate cancer

Madden Yee

01. 2024

Minimally invasive procedure that combines MRI and transurethral ultrasound ablation is effective for treating prostate cancer, research presented March 20 at the Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR) meeting in Salt Lake City.

Steven Raman, MD, of the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles, found that minimally-invasive, robot-assisted MRI-guided transurethral ultrasound ablation (TULSA) and performed by interventional radiologists -- provided better outcomes than surgery or radiation, showing a recovered continence rate of 92% at five-year follow-up.

"This minimally-invasive therapy maximizes our ability to kill cancer cells while minimizing collateral damage to the prostate to achieve the goal of prostate cancer treatment: full local cancer control while maintaining urinary continence and potency," Raman said in a press release from the healthcare public relations firm Reis Group.

Traditional prostate cancer treatments such as radiation therapy or surgery carry risk of side effects such as urinary incontinence, Raman and colleagues noted. The TULSA procedure consists of the insertion of a catheter-like device into the urethra. Once the catheter is in place, MRI guides the positioning of 10 therapeutic ultrasound elements into the prostate. Interventional radiologists can use MR thermometry to monitor targeted tissue while heating it to more than 55° and limiting heat to nerves and other healthy tissue, the investigators explained. TULSA can be performed as an outpatient or inpatient procedure under general anesthesia. It takes two to three hours, the team explained.

study that included 115 men enrolled across 13 sites in five countries, all underwent the TULSA procedure, Raman's group found the following:

Prostate cancer was undetectable on follow-up biopsies by 76% at one year after TULSA. There was a decrease in median prostate volume by 92% within one year and a decrease in prostate-specific antigen (PSA) from 6.3 ng/ml to 0.63 ng/ml at five years.

TULSA had a good side-effect profile when compared to surgery or radiation therapy (the latter being ultrasound-guided high-intensity focused ultrasound or cryotherapy) demonstrating a recovered continence rate of 92% and an erectile function rate of 87% at five-year follow-up.

In the study cohort, 25 patients went on to undergo conventional treatment with surgery or radiation because of residual or new tumors. From which the researchers concluded that failure of the TULSA procedure was related to calcifications between the probe and the targeted prostate cancer, prompting "better monitoring of prostate cancer, better targeting and misalignment [for] improved detection and management of prostate cancer, and prevention of avoidable errors during the procedure," the group wrote.

"This study's five-year follow-up demonstrates durable oncologic control, safety, and functional recovery after a single whole-gland TULSA procedure," Raman and colleagues concluded, noting that a randomized controlled trial comparing TULSA with prostatectomy is underway.

WS | ULTRASOUND

US shows promise in treating prostate cancer

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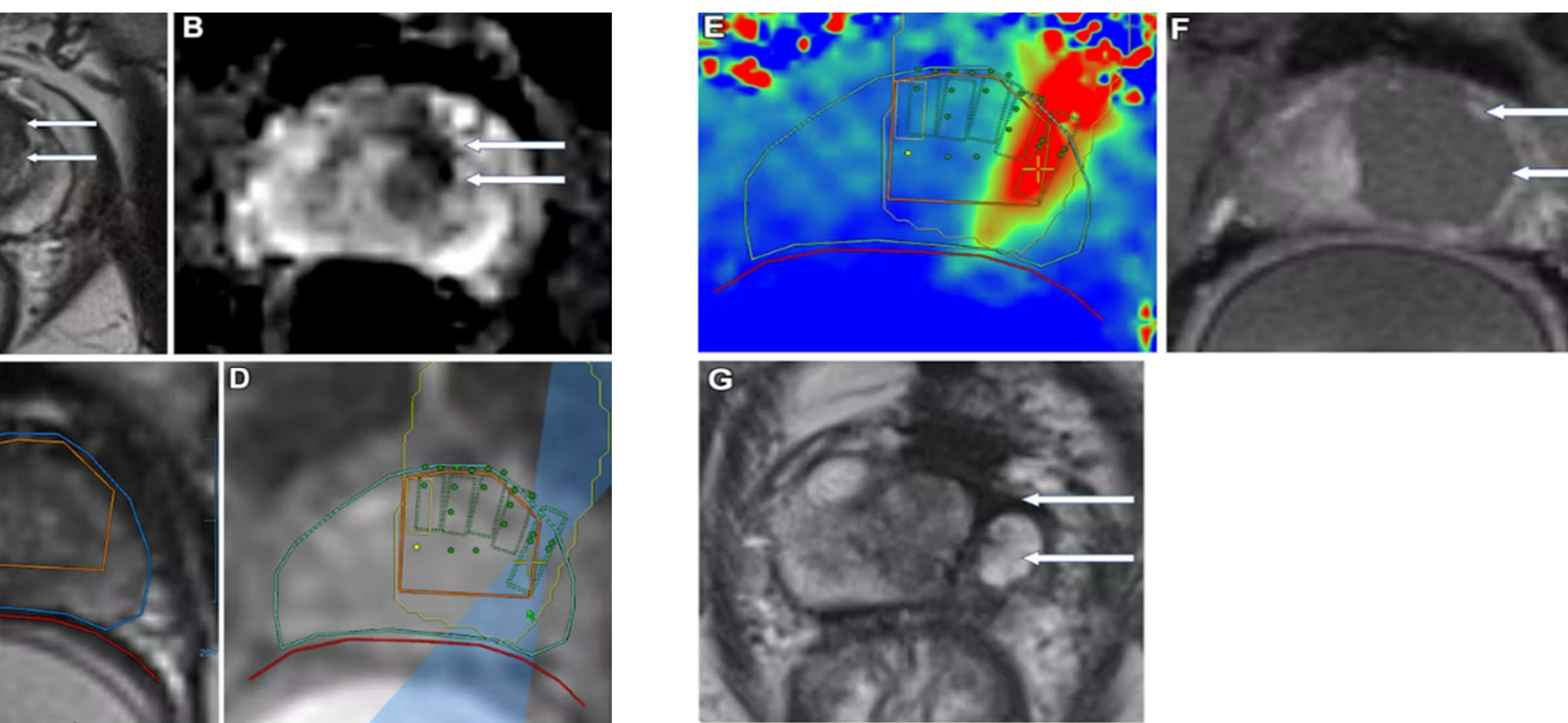
guided focused ultrasound (MRgFUS) therapy can successfully treat prostate cancer for those at intermediate risk, a study published March 5 in *Journal of Clinical Oncology* found.

Researchers led by Sangeet Ghai, MD, from the University of Toronto in Canada found that MRgFUS led to no adverse effects and negative follow-up results after treatment.

"Additionally, there was no significant decline in quality of life per the validated questionnaires," Ghai and colleagues wrote.

MRgFUS allows for clinicians and interventional radiologists to accurately target prostate cancer areas deemed to be clinically significant, including for treating prostate cancer. Previous research also highlights that this method can preserve more healthy prostate tissue. However, Ghai and co-authors noted that the long-term outcomes of MRgFUS in prostate cancer treatment are not well known.

In this single-center study, the team assessed the two-year oncological and functional outcomes of men with intermediate-risk prostate cancer. Study participants received transrectal MRgFUS between 2016 and 2019. The team noted that the MRgFUS ablation volumes included 10-mm margins when possible.



biopsy-confirmed prostate cancer in a 56-year-old man. (A) Pretreatment axial T2-weighted fast spin-echo MRI scan shows the tumor in the left transition zone (arrows). (B) Apparent diffusion coefficient map acquired with a 3T scanner shows the tumor in the left transition zone (arrows). (C) Preoperative 1.5-T MRI scan shows the contoured rectal wall (red line), prostate margin (blue outline), and tumor (orange outline). (D) Intraoperative MRI scan shows a focused ultrasound beam path (blue) overlaid on the prostate. The angular boxes show each sonication spot. (E) Thermal map obtained during treatment shows heat deposition (red) overlaid on the sonication spot. (F) Axial gadobutrol-enhanced MRI scan obtained immediately after treatment shows the devascularized ablated volume (arrows). (G) Corresponding T2-weighted fast spin-echo 3T MRI scan 6 months after ablation shows fibrosis and volume loss in the left transition zone (arrows). Findings were consistent with treatment-related changes, negative for malignancy at the treatment site.

Participants also completed quality-of-life questionnaires at six weeks and at five months. Additionally, the team collected data regarding adverse events. To confirm the researchers at 24 months performed multiparametric MRI as well as targeted biopsies.

The study included 44 men with a median age of 67 years. Of the total, 36 study participants had a grade group of 2, and eight had a grade group of 3. Both grade groups indicate intermediate risk, where therapies should be used.

The researchers highlighted the success of MRgFUS in the patients, reporting that treatment was fully completed in all participants and no major adverse events were recorded. One biopsy at 24 months.

Following treatment, 39 of the remaining 43 participants (91%) had no clinically detectable cancer at the treatment site and 36 participants (84%) had no cancer in the entire prostate.

The team reported no changes in International Index of Erectile Function-15 score or International Prostate Symptom Score during the two-year follow-up ($p = 0.73$ and 0.39 , respectively), which indicates that the patients experienced no significant decline in quality of life following treatment.

The study authors highlighted that their results could help in widespread adoption of MRgFUS in carefully selected patients.

In a accompanying editorial, David Woodrum, MD, PhD, from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, described the study as having “excellent local control, lack of substantial development of cancer in the prostate, and no change in urinary or erectile function.”

Woodrum further reinforces the concept that accurate ablation monitoring can keep morbidity low and local control high. “Overall, this study is an excellent representation of the potential benefits of treatment expansion in patients with prostate cancer.”