Oncological outcomes of 356 patients undergoing focal ablative salvage therapy (HIFU or cryotherapy) following radiation failure for prostate cancer


INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

Patients with radio-recurrent localised prostate cancer are traditionally given the option for salvage radical prostatectomy, or undergo hormone therapy. Both options are limited due to complications and associated systemic and functional morbidity.

The study evaluated if Focal Ablative Salvage Therapy (FAST) with cryotherapy and high intensity focused ultrasound (HIFU) may offer a safe alternative, providing oncological control.

METHODS

- All patients were diagnosed using mpMRI followed by transperineal targeted and systematic prostate biopsy.
- If mpMRI was unavailable, all patients underwent template (5mm sampling) biopsy
- All patients were staged with pelvic MRI, cross sectional imaging (CT Chest/Abdomen or PET CT) and bone scan.
- Cryotherapy was used for brachytherapy failure, anterior or seminal vesicle disease
- HIFU: Sonablate device (Sonacare Inc, USA)
- Cryotherapy- IceNet/Visualice system (Boston Scientific)
- Failure-free survival was defined as freedom from systemic therapy, whole-gland treatment, metastases or prostate cancer-specific death (up to 1-2 FAST sessions were permitted)
- Up to hockey-stick ablation was considered focal treatment
- Secondary outcomes included adverse events and overall survival

RESULTS

356 patients underwent FAST between 28/1/2004 and 1/10/2019 for radiorecurrent prostate cancer [Table 1]. FFS (95%CI) at 3 and 6 years were 81% (76-87%) and 75% (68-83%), respectively. Median (IQR) time to failure was 15.5 months (19.7). [Figure 1]. 31 (8.7%) underwent further focal salvage re-treatment

![Figure 1: Kaplan-Meyer Curve demonstrating failure free survival after focal ablative salvage therapy](image1)

Overall survival (95%CI) at 3 and 6 years were 97% (95-100%) and 88% (81-96%) respectively. [Figure 2]. Prostate-specific mortality was 2.8%.

![Figure 2: Kaplan-Meyer Curve demonstrating overall survival after focal ablative salvage therapy](image2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographics</th>
<th>Median follow-up, months (IQR)</th>
<th>Median age, years (IQR)</th>
<th>Median PSA, ng/ml (IQR)</th>
<th>HIFU, % (n)</th>
<th>Cryotherapy, % (n)</th>
<th>Quadrant ablation, % (n)</th>
<th>Hemi ablation, % (n)</th>
<th>Hockey-stick ablation, % (n)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>41.3 (21.4-58.5)</td>
<td>69 (65-73)</td>
<td>4.0 (1.7-7.2)</td>
<td>54.5% (194/356)</td>
<td>45.5% (162/356)</td>
<td>36.0% (128/356)</td>
<td>18.0% (64/356)</td>
<td>1.4% (5/356)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Patient demographics of patients that underwent focal ablative salvage therapy for radiorecurrent disease, and ablative patterns used.

1 (0.3%) patient was managed for recto-urethral fistula formation, 16 (4.5%) were treated for UTIs.