



Abdomen

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Combined type HCC-CC: Impact on imaging diagnosis

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Combined hepatocellular cholangiocarcinoma (cHCC-CC) is an uncommon type of primary liver cancer, accounting for 1-6% of all primary liver cancers. Since cHCC-CCs shares risk factors and clinical manifestations with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), they should be differentiated from HCCs in patients at risk. There has been a large controversy in the diagnosis, prognosis, and the optimal management of cHCC-CC. Pathologic diagnostic criteria for cHCC-CC have evolved, and the recent WHO classification system revised the pathologic definitions of cHCC-CC. Although cHCC-CC has been known to bear a poorer prognosis than HCC, it is still controversial whether patients with cHCC-CC can be optimal candidates for liver transplantation. A few studies evaluated radiologic findings of cHCC-CC and reported that cHCC-CC may exhibit findings similar either to HCC or cholangiocarcinoma (CC). When cHCC-CCs were categorized using LI-RADS, an approximately half of cHCC-CCs were reported to be categorized as probable or definite HCCs. These indicate that cHCC-CC may be an important cause of false positive diagnosis of HCC with non-invasive diagnostic system, which may challenge the current non-invasive imaging-based diagnosis of HCC. On the other hand, a recent study reported that radiologic findings and LI-RADS categories of cHCC-CCs are associated with tumor behavior; cHCC-CC with imaging findings similar to HCCs were reported to have favorable prognosis than those having similar imaging findings to CC. This lecture will summarize the radiologic findings of cHCC-CCs diagnosed according to the up-to-date WHO classification system and will discuss the prognostic significance of radiologic features of cHCC-CCs, and pathologic findings which determine radiologic findings of cHCC-CCs.

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