

Cholangiocarcinoma: New Insights

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Background:Cholangiocarcinoma is a malignant neoplasm originating from biliary epithelial cells. The incidence and mortality of disease are rising in the world. Currently, cholangiocarcinoma is accepted as stem cell disease. There are many risk factors for cholangiocarcinoma. Diagnosis of disease is easy but therapy of disease is quite difficult. Surgical resection and liver transplantation are the best therapies for the disease. Treatment is usually divided in 3 main groups: 1) endobiliary treatments 2) limited pharmacotherapy and 3) surgical treatment. In hilar cholangiocarcinoma; as curative therapy: 1) local excision 2) combined partial hepatectomy 3) ex situ vivo liver resection and autotransplantation 4) orthotopic liver transplantation 5) central lobe resection 6) neoadjuvant/adjuvant therapies may be given. As palliative therapy; 1) palliative surgical treatment 2) endoscopic stent 3) percutaneous stent 4) photodynamic treatment 5) intraluminal brachytherapy 6) external radiation and systemic chemotherapy may be administered. In conclusion, cholangiocellular carcinoma is a malignant disease which is suggested to be a stem cell disease triggered by inflammation, environmental and genetic factors. It originates from bile ducts and has a poor diagnosis. Future advances in the etiopathogenesis of the disease will contribute to a better understanding of the condition and its better treatment.

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