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HYPERTHERMIA AS THE ONLY TREATMENT OF BILE DUCT CANCER

The patient is a 49 year old Hungarian woman whose discomfort began in September 2006. Symptomatic treatment without effect and in January 2007 a CT scan showed a tumour in the central part of the bile duct, a so called Klatskin tumour. There was also a cyst in the 6th segment of the liver and some enlarged lymph glands between aorta and v. cava.

A biopsy of the tumour in January 2007 showed cholangiocellular cancer in the bile duct (so called T2 M2 N0)

There was also dilatation of the bile duct caused by a blockage of the tumour, and on 17.2.07 a stent was inserted in the bile duct to re-establish the bile flow. The tumour was inoperable.

On 7.3.07 she therefore started experimental chemotherapy with 51 mg doxorubicin and 425 mg FAM-erbitux. She only received this one chemotherapy as she could not tolerate it.

In May 2007 the Klatskin tumour had progressed in size and was now infiltrating into both liver lobes. Again the bile flow was blocked and the patient developed jaundice. The bloodtests for the liver were too high.

New lymph glands had appeared around the liver entrance (porte hepatis) 10-15 mm in size, and around the kidney artery 20 mm and 10-15 mm in size.

The clinical situation was therefore very serious.

On the 14th of June 2007 she was started on local hyperthermia treatment with the Oncotherm 3000 machine by dr. P. Lorencz at the Markusovszky Hospital in Hungary, two times a week. The hyperthermia was given directly on the liver in a dose of 214 kJ per time (60 watt for 60 minutes).

During the first month the jaundice disappeared and her blood tests for the liver became better. Her appetite returned and her general quality of life were significantly better.

After 13 treatments a CT scan on 19.9.07 showed a **significant reduction of tumour size**, the size of the lymph glands was normalized **and the big cyst in the 6th segment had disappeared completely.**

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She continued with local hyperthermia once a week and in January 2009 – almost 2½ years after start of the symptoms - she is very well and still gets hyperthermia once a week on the liver.

This is an interesting case story as **local hyperthermia has been her only therapy**. She received no conventional treatment except chemotherapy once in March 2007, which she could not tolerate and which did not work.