First multidisciplinary European cross-border monthly meeting : the quality has no border!

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INTRODUCTION :

We set-up a cross-border meeting in order to support and improve a focal therapy approach for localized prostate cancer (PCa) in our french center based in Besançon, involving an expert team of urologists and radiologists from Geneva (Switzerland).

MATERIALS AND METHODS :

We started in June 2018 a monthly meeting using Skype video conferencing service (Microsoft, Redmond WA). Two teams of urologists and radiologists were involved in this program. A french team of the Centre d'Urologie des Tilleroyes - Clinique Saint Vincent based in Besançon and a swiss one of the Swiss International Prostate Center based in Geneva.

The main goal was to support and improve a focal therapy approach for localized PCa in our two centers.

Due to the lack of french or swiss or even european guidelines we have to carry out a strict patient's selection.

Patient's data are reviewed with their consent.

For each patient a report is made and attached to the medical record.

On the French border side, the private practice team is ruining a high volume PCa center. HIFU treatments are performed using the Focal One device (EDAP-TMS, Vaux-en-Velin, France).

The well known swiss team is also a Focal One user and expert. They offer too focal laser treatment with EchoLaser Therapy (ELESTA, Calenzano (FI), Italy).

On both sides prostate targeted biopsies are performed with the Uronav system (Philips - InVivo, Gainesville FL). The French center is the only one in France equipped with it.

Prostate 3T MRI are performed in both centers.

RESULTS :

We talk over about 20 cases at each video conference.

MRI images are reviewed by both French and swiss radiologists and compared to targeted biopsies results with, if needed, the assistance of pathologists.

The focal therapy pioneer swiss team support the French team sharing his expert's tips and tricks.

This collaboration leads both centers to increase the number of cases and standard of cares for PCa.

On a yearly basis on the river side of Geneva's lake 1400 MRI, 600 prostate biopsies, 60 HIFU and 40 laser treatments are performed.

The French center has noted a significant increasing number of prostate MRI to 1200 exams in a year now (+50%) and 100 HIFU treatments (+20%). Six hundred Uronav targeted biopsies are also yearly performed by the French team.

CONCLUSION :

Our cross-border monthly meeting, prostate dedicated, led us to build up a real expert team wich improve a lot all aspects of prostate cancer management. From diagnosis to focal therapy, this strong partnership sped up our learning curve in MRI interpretation , targeted biopsies or HIFU treatment. Finaly the gain goes to patients with a high level of expertise and care.







