Abstract:
BACKGROUND: Most patients with unresectable advanced digestive cancers require placement of a fully implantable venous access port to facilitate safe delivery of anti-cancer drugs. Anti-VEGF therapies are commonly used even though they increase the risk of thrombosis. The objective of this study was to assess the incidence of radiologically confirmed catheter-related thrombosis (CRT) in patients with advanced digestive cancers.

METHODS: We retrospectively reviewed 88 patients with advanced digestive cancers who had adapted implantable ports placed in our institution for chemotherapy.

RESULTS: Thirty-nine patients were diagnosed with colorectal cancer, 26 with gastric cancer, 12 with pancreatic cancer, 8 with esophageal cancer, and 3 with other cancers. During follow-up, 22 patients (25%) received anti-VEGF therapies, while 66 patients (75%) did not. Four out of 88 patients (4.5%) had asymptomatic CRT. The incidence of CRT was the same (4.5%) regardless of whether the patient received anti-VEGF therapy.

CONCLUSIONS: In patients with digestive cancers who had implantable venous access ports, the incidence of the CRT was 4.5% with no association with anti-VEGF therapies.

Reference: