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Title: Self-expanding metallic Y-stent for complex malignant lesions of the main carina

Dr. Samy 31695 Lachkar Samy.Lachkar@chu-rouen.fr MD ¹, Dr. Mathieu 31696 Salaun Mathieu.Salaun@univ-rouen.fr MD ¹, Dr. Suzanna 31700 Bota Suzanna.Bota@chu-rouen.fr MD ¹ and Prof. Luc 31701 Thiberville Luc.Thiberville@univ-rouen.fr MD ¹. ¹ Clinique Pneumologique & CIC INSERM U-204, Rouen University Hospital, Rouen, France, F-76031 .

Body: Introduction: Silicon Y-stents are commonly used to manage malignant disease of the carina, but remains often inadequate to address complex stenosis or tracheo-oesophageal fistula. Objective: To assess the use of self-expanding metallic Y-stent, and to evaluate symptoms relief and tolerance in patients with malignant tumors of the main carina, not suitable for silicon stenting and surgical curative treatment. Methods: 8 patients with complex stenosis due to lung cancer received metallic Y tracheal stents, and 4 patients with oesophageal cancer with complex fistula involving the carina and left main bronchus had both metallic oesophageal and Y tracheal stents. Stents were placed under general anaesthesia using rigid-bronchoscopy with guide-wire fluoroscopy guidance. Respiratory symptoms, symptom-free and overall survival were recorded. Results: Self-expanding metallic Y-stent were easily placed in each case, with a procedure median duration of 30 min. All patients experienced symptoms improvement, with a median symptom-free survival of 32 days (1 to 273 d.). Among patients with oesophago-tracheal fistula, only one had a fistula extension on follow-up needing re-stenting, while two patients reported symptom resolution until death (at 6 and 9 months), and one remains symptom-free at 1 month, allowing oral nutrition. In lung cancer-related stenosis patients, the median symptom-free survival was 28 d. (interquartile range (IQR): 17-56 d.), and median survival 30 d. (IQR: 17-57 d.). Conclusion: Self-expanding metallic Y-stents appear easy to use and provide symptoms improvement in patients with complex malignant diseases of the main carina that are not suitable for curative treatment or silicon stenting.