Perihilar cholangiocarcinoma, improving prognostication and palliative treatment

1. Poor prognostic factors become less relevant once patients with unresectable PHC survived beyond two years. (this thesis)

2. A complete resection without postoperative mortality in patients with perihilar cholangiocarcinoma is less likely in patients with advanced age, preoperative cholangitis, hepatic artery involvement, suspicious lymph nodes, and Blumgart stage 3. (this thesis)

3. Both unilateral and main hepatic artery involvement are independent poor prognostic factors for overall survival in patients presenting with perihilar cholangiocarcinoma, whereas portal vein involvement is not. (this thesis)

4. As most patients with PHC have locally advanced or metastatic disease at presentation, the AJCC staging system should be applicable with cross-sectional imaging instead of requiring pathological evaluation. (this thesis)

5. Patients receiving palliative gemcitabine and cisplatin who did not meet the inclusion criteria of the ABC-02 trial, have comparable OS, PFS, toxicity, and chemotherapy dose reduction rates compared with patients who did. (this thesis)

6. Intratumor heterogeneity poses a tremendous challenge to cancer biology and diagnostics. (Heitzer, Nature Reviews Genetics, 2018)

7. Neoadjuvant chemoradiotherapy followed by liver transplantation offers the best outcomes for a subset of patients with early stage PHC. (Rizvi, Nature Reviews Clinical Oncology, 2017)

8. A personalized cholangiocarcinoma diagnostic work-up and therapeutic approach must be managed by dedicated centers with multidisciplinary expertise and where translation from basic science to clinic can rapidly take place (Banales, Nature Reviews Gastroenterology & Hepatology, 2016)

9. An increase in administrative tasks has resulted in less time for the activity that clinicians find most important: interacting with patients. (Ashton, New England Journal of Medicine, 2018)

10. It is certain, in any case, that ignorance, allied with power, is the most ferocious enemy justice can have. (James Baldwin)

11. Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted. (William Bruce Cameron)