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To cite this version:

HAL Id: inserm-00294599
https://inserm.hal.science/inserm-00294599
Submitted on 9 Jul 2008

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Using a toroid transducer for thermal ablation by high-intensity-focused ultrasound increases the coagulated volume

David Melodelima PhD¹, William A. N'Djin¹, Hubert Parmentier MD¹, Michel Rivoire MD, PhD¹ and Jean-Yves Chapelon PhD¹

Here, we report that a new design of High Intensity Focused Ultrasound transducer can significantly enlarge the coagulated volume over short periods of time, and that treatment in the liver can be guided in real-time using an integrated ultrasound imaging probe. Eight ultrasound emitters, divided into 256 elements, were created by sectioning a single toroid piezocomposite transducer. The focal zone was conical in shape and located 70 mm from the transducer, enabling the treatment of deep-seated tumors. A single thermal lesion was created when the eight emitters performed alternative and consecutive 5s ultrasound exposures. This paper presents in vivo evidence that the coagulated volume obtained from a 40 s total exposure in the liver was $7.0 \pm 2.5 \text{ cm}^3$ (min 1.5 – max 20.0 cm³). All lesions were visible with high contrast on sonograms. The correlation between the diameter of lesions observed on sonograms and during gross examination was 92%. This method also allowed the user to easily enlarge the coagulated volume by juxtaposing single lesions. This approach may have a role in treating unresectable colorectal liver metastases and may also be used in conjunction with resection to extend its limits.