

# **SpaceOAR**<sup>™</sup> **Hydrogel** is Associated with Lower Rectal Toxicity and Higher Bowel Quality of Life in Late Follow-up: **Systematic Review & Meta-Analysis**

The purpose of this value analysis brief is to highlight key findings from a recently published systematic literature review and meta-analysis¹ that demonstrates the clinical benefits of SpaceOAR Hydrogel compared with no spacer.

## **SUMMARY**

In a pooled analysis of **1,011 patients** receiving **radiotherapy** from 7 clinical studies, SpaceOAR Hydrogel when compared to control demonstrates:



66% less v70 rectal irradiation



**77% reduction in the risk of** rectal toxicity (grade ≥2) in late follow-up



**70% reduction in the risk of** rectal toxicity (grade ≥1) in late follow-up



**Better** patient bowel quality of life in late follow-up exceeding the threshold for a minimal clinically important difference (mean difference = 5.4).

#### **BACKGROUND**

Radiotherapy is a well-established and highly effective curative treatment option for patients with prostate cancer.<sup>2</sup> Due to its proximity to the prostate, the rectum is vulnerable to radiation induced treatment toxicity, which can in turn cause gastrointestinal complications.<sup>1</sup>

Symptoms of radiation toxicity often begin during radiation therapy, but sometimes do not appear until several years later.<sup>3</sup>

The SpaceOAR Hydrogel System (Figure 1) is a biodegradable polyethylene glycol hydrogel intended to temporarily position the anterior rectal wall away from the prostate during radiotherapy in prostate cancer patients.<sup>4</sup>

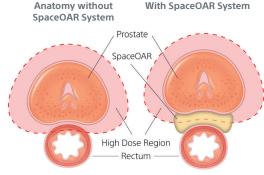


Figure 1: SpaceOAR Hydrogel System

## LOWER RECTAL TOXICITY AND IMPROVED BOWEL QUALITY OF LIFE (QOL) WITH SPACEOAR HYDROGEL

Clinical trials in the U.S<sup>5,6,7</sup> and Europe<sup>3,8</sup> have demonstrated that SpaceOAR Hydrogel is safe and that the space created with hydrogel spacers significantly reduces the radiation delivered to the rectum. The randomised SpaceOAR Hydrogel U.S. Clinical Trial found that patients who received SpaceOAR Hydrogel reported significantly less rectal pain during radiotherapy<sup>5</sup> and had significantly fewer severe long-term rectal complications.<sup>6,7</sup>

#### WHY IS THIS SYSTEMATIC REVIEW EVIDENCE IMPORTANT?

Systematic review and meta-analyses are categorised as the highest quality or most robust type of evidence because they allow pooling of data from a large number of treated patients to minimise the effects of bias in studies. This type of evidence is important to clinicians, payers, providers, HTA organisations and other funding bodies to ensure SpaceOAR Hydrogel is safe and effective. This is the first systematic review with quantitative analysis of the existing SpaceOAR Hydrogel clinical trial data.

## **METHODS**

The systematic review was conducted and reported according to the PRISMA guidelines.<sup>10</sup> Searches were performed in Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, Medline, and Embase up to September 2019 to identify comparative studies of men receiving radiotherapy for localised or locally advanced prostate cancer, with and without hydrogel spacing. Randomised control trials and cohort studies with >10 patients were included. Out of 475 articles identified, 73 full-text papers were reviewed with 7 studies included (Table 1) comprising 1,011 patients (486 SpaceOAR Hydrogel vs 525 no spacer) for analyses across different radiotherapy protocols.<sup>1</sup>

### Table 1: Included primary studies in systematic literature review

rabic ii iiiciaaca piiiiia	No nationts   Follow up/months				
Primary Study, Year	No. patients	Follow-up (months)	RT protocol		
Filliary Study, feat	SpaceOAR h	KI PIOLOCOI			
Chao <sup>11</sup> , 2019	32/65	42/65	BT, IMRT		
Mariados <sup>5</sup> , 2015	149/73	37/37*	IMRT		
Pinkawa¹², 2017	101/66	63/63	IMRT		
Tagger <sup>13</sup> , 2018	79/136	<12	BT ± EBRT		
Te Velde <sup>14</sup> , 2019	65/56	<36	IMRT		
Whalley <sup>15</sup> , 2016	30/110	28/26	IMRT		
Wolf <sup>16</sup> , 2015	30/19	3	IMRT		

RT, radiotherapy; BT, brachytherapy; EBRT, external beam radiotherapy; IMRT, intensity modulated radiation therapy; \*data includes secondary study Hamstra et al. 6

#### **OUTCOMES**

Outcomes were based on procedural results, rectal irradiation, rectal toxicity, and bowel quality of life (QoL).

#### **Procedural Outcomes**

A well tolerated procedure, SpaceOAR™ Hydrogel demonstrates a 97% placement success rate<sup>1</sup> with mild procedural complications occurring in 0% to 10% of patients within studies.1

#### **Rectal Irradiation Outcomes**

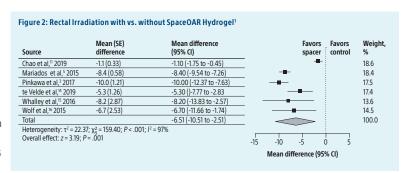
Compared to controls, in men who received SpaceOAR Hydrogel prior to radiotherapy there was a **66% reduction of v70 rectal irradiation** (Figure 2) (3.5% vs 10.4%, p=0.001) when compared to men without a hydrogel spacer. There is a strong correlation between rectal v70 and rectal toxicity.1

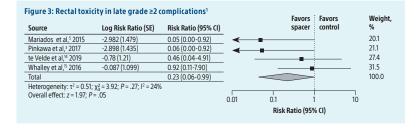
#### **Rectal Toxicity Outcomes**

SpaceOAR Hydrogel was associated with a **reduction** in rectal toxicity of any severity (grade ≥1) in the short and long-term (≤3 months, 20.5% vs 29.5%, p=0.005; median 40 months, 4.8% vs 16.2%, p<0.001)1 and a 77% lower risk of grade ≥2 severity at late follow-up (1.5% vs 5.7%, p=0.05)1 (Figure 3).

#### **Bowel QoL Outcomes**

Two studies<sup>3,5</sup> reported bowel QoL, and demonstrated higher bowel QoL scores at late follow-up vs control (median 48 months) (Figure 4) that exceeded the threshold for a minimal clinical importance difference.





Source	Mean (SE) difference	Mean difference (95% CI)			Favors spacer	_	_	Weight, % 51.9
Mariados et al,5 2015	5.8 (1.84)	5.80 (2.19-9.41)				-	_	48.1
Pinkawa et al,3 2017	5.0 (1.91)	5.00 (1.26-8.74)			-	$\bigcirc$	-	100.0
Total		5.41 (2.82-8.01)				1		
Heterogeneity: $\tau^2 = 0.00$	; $\chi_1^2 = 0.09$ ; $P < .76$ ; $I^2 = 0\%$		-5	(	)	5	10	
Overall effect: $z = 4.09$ ; $I$	<.0001			Mean di	fference (9	5% CI)		

## STRENGTHS & LIMITATIONS

Strengths of the review include following PRISMA guidelines, careful identification of studies with overlapping patients and sensitivity analysis to explore potential sources of heterogeneity. Limited number of studies, non-randomised study designs and short follow-up time, which may not accurately capture radiation toxicity manifestations limit this review.

#### CONCLUSIONS

Among men planning to receive radiotherapy for localised or locally advanced prostate cancer, injection of a SpaceOAR Hydrogel was safe, provided prostate-rectum separation sufficient to reduce v70 rectal irradiation, and was associated with lower rectal toxicity and higher bowel quality of life in late follow-up.

## WHAT IS THE PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL GUIDANCE?

Professional clinical guidelines recommend the use of biodegradable spacer insertion to reduce rectal toxicity during radiotherapy for prostate cancer in adults.2,17

- 1. Miller L, Efstathiou J, Bhattacharyya S, Payne H, Woodward E, Pinkawa M. Association of Perirectal Hydrogel Spacer with Safety and Efficacy Outcomes in Prostate Cancer Radiotherapy: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. JAMA 2020
- 2. National Institute of Health and Care Excellence. Guideline. Biodegradable spacer insertion to reduce rectal toxicity during radiotherapy for prostate cancer Interventional procedures 2. Nation in Institute of Treatment of the Extended Confidence in Extended Confidence in Institute of Treatment of Treatme
- of Radiation Oncology 2017;99(2);374-377

  4. Boston Scientific. SpaceOAR Instructions for Use (IFU). 2020;http://www.spaceoar.com/assets/LCN-80-3101-001-Rev-C\_SpaceOAR-System-10mL-IFU-CAN.pdf. Accessed
- 5. Mariados Sylvester J. Shah D. et al. N. Hydrogel Spacer Prospective Multicenter Randomized Controlled Pivotal Trial: Final Results of Phase III Trial. Dosimetric and Clinical Effects of Perirectal Spacer Application in Men Undergoing Prostate Image Guided Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy. International Journal of Radiation Oncology 2015;92(5);971-977. 6. Hamstra DA, Mariados N, Sylvester J, et al. Continued Benefit toRectal Separation for Prostate Radiation Therapy: Final Results of Phase III Trial. International Journal of
- Radiation Oncology Biology Physics. 2017;97(5):976-985. 7. Hamstra DA, Mariados N, Sylvester J, Shah D, Gross E, Hudes R, et al. Sexual quality of life following prostate intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) with a rectal/prostate spacer: secondary analysis of a phase 3 trial. Pract Radiat Oncol 2018;8(1):e7-e15.
- 8. Pinkawa M, Corral NE, Caffaro M, et al. Application of a spacer gel to optimize three-dimensional conformal and intensity modulatedradiotherapy for prostate cancer. Radiother Oncol. 2011:100(3):436-441.
- Oxford Center for Evidence Based Medicine (OCEBM) Levels of Evidence. The Oxford 2011 Levels of Evidence. https://www.cebm.net/2016/05/ocebm-levels-of-evidence 10. Liberati A, Altman DG, Tetzlaff J, et al. The PRISMA statement for reporting 446 systematic reviews and meta-analyses of studies that evaluate healthcare 447 interventions:
- explanation and elaboration. BMJ. 2009;339:b2700. 11. Chao M, Ow D, Ho H, et al. Improving rectal dosimetry for patients with intermediate and high-risk prostate cancer undergoing combined high-dose-rate brachytherapy and external beam radiotherapy with hydrogel space, J Contemp Brachytherapy, 2019:11:8-13.

- 12. Pinkawa M, Berneking V, Konig L, et al. Hydrogel injection reduces rectal toxicity after radiotherapy for localized prostate cancer. Strahlenther Onkol. 2017;193:22-28.

  13. Taggar AS., et al. Placement of an absorbable rectal hydrogel spacer in patients undergoing low-dose-rate brachytherapy with palladium-103. Brachytherapy. 2018;17:251-258.

  14. Te Velde BL, Westhuyzen J, Awad N, et al. Late toxicities of prostate cancer radiotherapy with and without hydrogel SpaceAOR insertion. J Med Imaging Radiat Ornol. 2019.

  15. Whalley D., et al. SpaceOAR Hydrogel in Dose-escalated Prostate Cancer Radiotherapy: Rectal Dosimetry and Late Toxicity. Clin Oncol (R Coll Radiol). 2016;28:e148-154.

  16. Wolf F, Gaisberger C, et al. Comparison of two different rectal spacers in prostate cancer external beam radiotherapy in terms of rectal sparing and volume consistency. Radiother Oncol. 2015;116:221-225.
- 17. National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN). NCCN Guidelines: prostate cancer v. 4.2018. https://www2.tri-kobe.org/nccn/guideline/urological/english/prostate.pdf.

The third-party trademarks used herein are the trademarks of their respective owners. CAUTION: US Federal law restricts this device to sale by or on the order of a physician

CAUTION: The law restricts these devices to sale by or on the order of a physician. Indications, contraindications, warnings and instructions for use can be found in the product labeling supplied with each device. Information for use only in countries with applicable health authority registrations. This material is not intended for use in France.

