

Introduction to thyroid collection issue

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To Readers of Special Issue on thermal therapies for thyroid diseases,

Image-guided thermal ablation of benign and malignant thyroid diseases is gaining an increasing importance in the clinical practice, and is achieving a great interest by the scientific community. For this reason we decided to dedicate the present issue of the International Journal of Hyperthermia to a collection of recently submitted manuscripts on thyroid thermal ablation.

In the first papers [1–4] by Lang *et al.*, the focus is placed on high intensity focussed ultrasound, that thanks to recent technical developments has also been applied to thyroid disease. This method, does not even require the insertion of an ablative device through the skin, representing by far the less invasive thermal ablation approach for thyroid diseases.

The paper by Mader *et al.* [5] highlights how thermal ablation might not only be a substitute of other therapies, such as radioiodine ablation, but may also be used in combination with different techniques with an increased synergistic effect.

Furthermore, in the paper by Baek *et al.* [6], it is pointed out how early detection of regrowth might be extremely important for an eventual early retreatment.

In the paper by Mauri *et al.* [7], a propensity score analysis is provided to better study which technique between laser and radiofrequency ablation might be more effective in treating benign thyroid nodules, a topic previously reported in our journal [8] and further discussed in some letters to the editor in the present issue [9–11].


Finally, three papers [12–14] discuss the role of thermal ablation in the management of thyroid malignancies, and Wang *et al.* [15] report on the use of microwaves in the treatment of secondary hyperparathyroidism.

Thus, in this journal collection a comprehensive overview of the most recent research and debate regarding thyroid thermal ablation is provided. We encourage more submissions on this subject and we hope that you will find these methods useful in your practice.

Disclosure statement

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