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The investigators have tested this device for treating Barrett's esophagus (BE), a precursor to esophageal cancer commonly caused by gastro-esophageal reflux. Pilot animal studies demonstrated successful ablation of the treated region without any procedural or device-related complications. The inventors are also developing two other prototypes, one for ablation of the pancreatic and bile ducts, and another for the ablation of intra-luminal tumors.

Advantages

This technology has certain advantages over the two most closely related therapeutic techniques currently in use, irreversible electroporation (IRE) and electro-chemical therapy (EChT):

This technique is significantly faster and allows for greater depth of penetration

The technique does not cause any heating of tissue and is unaffected by blood flow or proximity to blood vessels in a region

pH change produced can be adjusted accurately to ensure survival of nearby tissue structures

Market Opportunities

The global ablation devices market in 2011 was \$7.8B and is expected to grow rapidly to \$12.4B by 2015. Electric ablation makes up 42% of the global market. Barrett's esophagus (BE) has an estimated incidence of 5.6% of the population. The average cost of ablation treatment is \$7500, with potentially 100,000 cases a year.

Areas of Application

Barrett's esophagus, pancreatic and hepatic duct ablation, ablation of intra-luminal tumors, and other tumor ablation indications

Patent Information

U.S. National 14/910,600 issued; Europe nationals published.

Lead Investigator

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Stage of Development

Animal studies

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