COLD VERSUS HOT SNARE POLYPECTOMY AND COLD FORCEPS FOR SMALL COLORECTAL POLYPS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND NETWORK META-ANALYSIS

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A network meta-analysis of 13 studies (2767 patients) found no significant differences in complete resection rates among cold snare polypectomy, hot snare polypectomy, and cold forceps for removing small colorectal polyps up to 10mm.

KEY POINTS

- Hot snare polypectomy versus cold snare polypectomy showed no significant differences in complete resection rate (RR 2.00, 95% CI 0.53 to 7.51, P = 0.74) or incomplete resection rate (RR 1.24, 95% CI 0.20 to 7.85, P = 0.43).
- Cold snare polypectomy versus cold forceps showed no significant variance in complete histological polyp eradication (RR 0.97, 95% CI 0.87 to 1.08, P = 0.1), incomplete histological polyp eradication (RR 1.36, 95% CI 0.57 to 3.26, P = 0.9), or visual polyp eradication (RR 0.75, 95% CI 0.62 to 0.91, P = 0.07).
- The authors conclude that all three methods appear equally effective for small polyp removal but suggest further studies with more participants and longer follow-up may be needed.
- This systematic review and network meta-analysis searched databases through March 2024 for randomized controlled trials and observational studies comparing these polypectomy techniques.

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