PROGNOSTIC CORRELATIONS OF CD 44, CD24 AND EPCAM ON ENDOSCOPIC ULTRASOUND FINE NEEDLE BIOPSY PANCREATIC DUCTAL ADENOCARCINOMA SAMPLES

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A study of 35 PDAC patients found that combined CD44+/CD24+ expression on EUS-FNB specimens was significantly correlated with poorer outcomes and more intense in metastatic disease, while triple-positive staining and survival showed no correlations.

KEY POINTS

- CD44+/CD24+ co-expression was significantly associated with poorer outcomes (P=0.05) and was more intense when metastasis was present at diagnosis (p<0.005).
- Individual markers (CD44+, CD24+, EpCAM+) and other dual combinations (CD44+/EpCAM+, CD24+/EpCAM+) did not correlate with patient evolution.
- CD44 and CD24 were significantly correlated with poor differentiation and high proliferation, while EpCAM was correlated with well differentiation and low proliferation.
- Triple-positive cases (18% of 300 fields) and survival analysis showed no correlations with PCSC staining.
- The authors suggest EUS-FNB with CD44+/CD24+ testing might be considered for PDAC prognosis assessment, as three passes provided sufficient tissue for immunohistochemical analysis.

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