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Summary

PROTON POMP INHIBITORS IN CIRRHOTIC PATIENTS: ARE THEY A RISK FACTOR FOR SPONTANEOUS BACTERIAL PERITONITIS?

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A retrospective study of 1530 cirrhotic patients with ascites found that proton pump inhibitor use is associated with increased risk of spontaneous bacterial peritonitis, particularly when prescribed without valid indication.

KEY POINTS

- Among 174 patients with spontaneous bacterial peritonitis, 50 (28.7%) had received prior proton pump inhibitor treatment, with only 28% having a valid indication for the medication
- Proton pump inhibitors were identified as a risk factor for spontaneous bacterial peritonitis with an odds ratio of 1.71 (95% CI 1.20 to 2.44, P=0.0029)
- In the non-spontaneous bacterial peritonitis group, 60.5% of patients on proton pump inhibitors had a valid indication, compared to only 28% in the spontaneous bacterial peritonitis group
- Spontaneous bacterial peritonitis was diagnosed in 11.4% of the 1530 cirrhotic patients with ascites, defined as ascitic fluid PMN count greater than 250 cells/mm^3
- This material is relevant to clinicians managing cirrhotic patients with ascites who are considering or reviewing proton pump inhibitor prescriptions

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