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Summary

ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS FOR THE REFERRAL OF LARGE COMPLEX COLORECTAL POLYPS: AN INTERNATIONAL EXPERT CONSENSUS USING A MODIFIED DELPHI PROCESS

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Colorectal

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An international Delphi study involving 24 experts from four continents established minimum referral standards for large colorectal polyps, achieving consensus on 18 of 44 proposed items to improve care planning for endoscopic resection.

KEY POINTS

- Many current referrals for large polyps lack sufficient information to properly characterize lesions, leading to delayed care, mismanagement, and suboptimal selection of resection techniques.
- The study used a three-round Delphi methodology with 24 international experts in advanced endoscopy, with equal gender representation, to generate and vote on 44 referral standard statements covering patient demographics, anamnesis, previous endoscopy findings, lesion findings, and outcomes.
- Only 18 of the 44 proposed statements achieved consensus after the second round, with consensus rates varying slightly among continents.
- Experts emphasized balancing comprehensive information with practicality, prioritizing relevant and objective parameters while avoiding unnecessary burden on referring physicians.
- This work provides evidence-based guidance for general gastroenterologists referring large complex polyps and for advanced endoscopists developing referral protocols.

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