EXTRACELLULAR MATRIX REMODELING BIOMARKERS PREDICT TRANSPLANT-FREE SURVIVAL IN PRIMARY SCLEROSING CHOLANGITIS

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Extracellular matrix remodeling biomarkers PRO-C3, TSP-2, and ELF score strongly predict transplant-free survival in PSC, with TSP-2 showing the highest odds ratio and adding prognostic value beyond ELF alone.

KEY POINTS

- In 249 PSC patients followed for a median of 5.2 years, TSP-2 demonstrated the strongest association with transplant-free survival, with an odds ratio of 11.97 (95% CI 5.20-31.36) comparing highest versus lowest tertile and a 5-year AUC of 0.78.
- PRO-C3 and ELF score (including its components HA, P3NP, and TIMP-1) also showed strong prognostic performance, with 5-year AUC values ranging from 0.75 to 0.80 and hazard ratios between 1.92 and 5.79.
- The combination of high ELF and high TSP-2 identified patients at greatest risk, with TSP-2 adding approximately 2.5-fold increased risk among patients already at high ELF.
- Markers of collagen degradation (C3M) and neutrophil activation (CPa9-HNE) showed little or no prognostic value in this cohort.
- Results remained consistent in sensitivity analyses excluding small-duct disease and early events, and when restricting the endpoint to PSC-related death or transplant due to end-stage liver disease only.
- This single-centre study used baseline serum samples only; longitudinal trajectories and external validation are needed to establish these markers as surrogate endpoints for clinical trials.

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