

Best of UEG Week - Pancreas

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Podcast Episode

Pancreas

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Gastroenterologists discuss emerging pancreatic cancer diagnostics, sphincterotomy practice change, and microbiome predictors of pancreatitis severity from UEG Week 2023.

KEY POINTS

- A Japanese study presented DNA profiling of duodenal fluid as a potential non-invasive liquid biopsy to differentiate pancreatic cancer from benign lesions in 296 patients, though speakers emphasized the need for validation studies given historical challenges with similar biomarkers in benign disease
- A Dutch randomized trial of 259 patients found endoscopic sphincterotomy did not prevent pancreatitis after biliary stent placement for malignancy, with rates of 17% versus 21%, prompting debate over whether to abandon the practice despite conflicting opinions among centers
- Two microbiome studies identified rectal beta diversity patterns and specific species, enterococcus in rectal swabs and Staphylococcus in saliva, that predicted severity and infected necrosis in acute pancreatitis, raising the possibility of early targeted microbiome intervention
- The discussion reflects active debate in pancreatic disease management and will interest gastroenterologists, pancreatologists, and endoscopists following diagnostic innovation and evolving procedural standards

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