

Pancreatic cystic neoplasms with Marco del Chiaro

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Podcast Episode

Pancreas

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Professor Marco del Chiaro discusses the development of new pan-continental guidelines for pancreatic cystic neoplasms, aiming to unify diagnosis and management across multiple existing guidelines with varying recommendations.

KEY POINTS

- The new global guidelines will cover all types of pancreatic cystic tumours, not just IPMNs like the Kyoto guidelines, and involve over 100 experts across three continents using rigorous evidence-based methodology.
- The guidelines face challenges including lack of prospective randomised trials, resulting in moderate to low evidence levels, and applicability issues due to varying resource availability across different healthcare systems.
- Current evidence shows very few patients with pancreatic cysts develop cancer despite high cyst prevalence, with diagnostic error rates of 20-30 percent and difficulty predicting which low-grade dysplasia lesions will progress.
- Recent data support surveillance rather than routine resection for mucinous cystic neoplasms up to four centimetres without concerning features, with actual malignancy risk around 16 percent versus one-third severe complication rate from Whipple procedures.
- The working group plans to continue collaboration after guideline publication to identify evidence gaps and develop biomarkers for better risk stratification, with updates planned when new evidence warrants revision.

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