

WASTE AUDIT IN A LARGE SWISS ENDOSCOPY CENTER - FIRST STEP TO A GREENER ENDOSCOPY UNIT

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A one-week structured waste audit in a Swiss tertiary endoscopy unit quantified procedure-specific waste production and demonstrated feasibility of routine waste monitoring without disrupting clinical workflow.

KEY POINTS

- Median waste production ranged from 910 g per gastroscopy to 1823 g per ERCP or EUS, totaling 26 kg of waste per day and an estimated 52 tonnes of CO₂ from incineration per year in the unit performing over 6000 procedures annually
- Waste was collected in patient-specific bags for 75 procedures from patient preparation to discharge, including sharps and reusable equipment, by two investigators during normal unit operations in March 2023
- The authors conclude that structured waste audits can be incorporated into daily endoscopy practice using few resources and without impacting patient care
- The authors recommend combining gastroscopy and colonoscopy in one procedure when possible and emphasize that creating awareness of waste generation is a first step toward sustainable endoscopy practice

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