PANCREATIC DUCT WALL THICKENING ON ENDOSCOPIC ULTRASOUND: NOTABLE FINDING IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF AUTOIMMUNE PANCREATITIS

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A study of 24 consecutive autoimmune pancreatitis patients found that pancreatic duct wall thickening detected by endoscopic ultrasound was present in 83.3% of cases and improved with steroid therapy.

KEY POINTS

- Pancreatic duct wall thickening on endoscopic ultrasound was detected in 83.3% (20/24) of patients diagnosed with type 1 autoimmune pancreatitis between March 2017 and March 2023
- The thickening was characterized by a thickened wall with symmetry, irregular luminal caliber, and a smooth hyperechoic layer covering the surface
- Among 7 patients who underwent repeat endoscopic ultrasound after steroid trial, all showed improvement in pancreatic duct wall thickening
- The authors conclude that focusing on pancreatic duct wall thickening on endoscopic ultrasound may be useful in diagnosing autoimmune pancreatitis and distinguishing it from pancreatic neoplasm
- This material is relevant for gastroenterologists and endoscopists involved in the diagnostic workup of suspected autoimmune pancreatitis

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