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Summary

USE OF 3F DILATOR IN ENDOSCOPIC ULTRASOUND-GUIDED BILIARY DRAINAGE WITH A 22-GAUGE NEEDLE

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A study of five patients found that a 3F dilator can effectively reinforce 0.018-inch guidewire stiffness or enable replacement with a 0.025-inch guidewire during EUS-guided biliary drainage with a 22-gauge needle.

KEY POINTS

- Between December 2021 and March 2023, five patients underwent EUS-guided biliary drainage with a 22-gauge needle and 3F dilator at a single institution.
- In four patients undergoing EUS-rendezvous, the 0.018-inch guidewire could not pass through the papilla due to low stiffness; insertion of the 3F dilator successfully increased guidewire stiffness and enabled papillary passage in three patients, while one required replacement with a 0.025-inch guidewire.
- The 3F dilator required dilation of the puncture route by repeated needle passes under guidewire placement for successful insertion.
- No biliary peritonitis from the puncture route was observed in any patient.
- This technical approach may benefit endoscopists performing EUS-guided biliary drainage in small-diameter bile ducts where standard 0.018-inch guidewires lack sufficient stiffness.

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