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Summary

TESTING NEUTROPHIL GELATINASE-ASSOCIATED LIPOCALIN (NGAL) IN ASSOCIATION WITH GLUCOSE IN THE INTRACYSTIC FLUID IS USEFUL FOR DIFFERENTIATION MUCINOUS FROM NON-MUCINOUS PANCREATIC CYSTS

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Pancreas

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A prospective study of 63 patients found that neutrophil gelatinase-associated lipocalin concentration in pancreatic cyst fluid, alone or combined with glucose levels, can help differentiate mucinous from non-mucinous pancreatic cysts.

KEY POINTS

- Intracystic Ngal concentration with a cut-off between 500 and 800 ng/dl achieved 70.8% sensitivity and 92.3% specificity for identifying mucinous cysts, while serum Ngal had no diagnostic value.
- Cystic glucose levels at or below 22 mg/dl showed 83.3% sensitivity and 82.1% specificity for mucinous lesions.
- Combined Ngal and glucose testing achieved 100% specificity but only 58.3% sensitivity, whereas either test positive yielded 95.8% sensitivity and 74.4% specificity.
- Mean Ngal values differed by cyst type: 336 ng/dl for serous cystadenomas, 728 ng/dl for mucinous lesions, and 1116 ng/dl for pseudocysts.
- This work may interest clinicians evaluating undetermined pancreatic cystic lesions when non-invasive imaging is inconclusive and EUS-FNA is being considered.

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