ENDOBILIARY RADIOFREQUENCY ABLATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF MALIGNANT BILIARY OBSTRUCTION – SINGLE CENTER EXPERIENCE

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Retrospective analysis of 17 ERCP-guided intraductal radiofrequency ablation procedures in 16 patients with malignant biliary obstruction showed mean stent patency of 144 days with all patients remaining symptom-free during follow-up.

KEY POINTS

- Mean stent patency was 144.36 ± 89.3 days with all patients symptom-free and without cholangitis during this period.
- Indications included cholangiocarcinoma in 10 patients, gallbladder cancer in 2, papillary adenoma with intraductal extension in 2, and metastatic disease in 2 patients.
- Adverse event rate was 18.75% including one self-limited bleeding, one postprocedural cholangitis, and one liver abscess managed percutaneously, with no deaths or ICU admissions.
- Two stent occlusions occurred at 169 days and 116 days, both successfully managed with repeat intervention.
- The authors conclude that intraductal radiofrequency ablation may be proposed as adjunctive treatment in malignant biliary obstruction although more randomized studies are needed.

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