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Summary

TRENDS IN THE USE OF BIODEGRADABLE PANCREATICOBILIARY STENTS IN LARGE UK HOSPITAL TRUST

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Hepatobiliary

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A retrospective review of 66 biodegradable pancreaticobiliary stents inserted in 63 patients across two UK hospitals between 2019 and 2023 found that most stents were pancreatic (inserted for post-ERCP pancreatitis prophylaxis) with a trend away from biliary stents over time.

KEY POINTS

- Post-ERCP pancreatitis prophylaxis was the indication for all 48 pancreatic stents, while 5 biliary stents were for bile leaks and 13 for biliary drainage post-ERCP.
- Nine patients were readmitted within 6 months for pancreaticobiliary complications including cholangitis (n=3), cholecystitis (n=2), post-ERCP pancreatitis (n=2), biliary obstruction (n=1), and persistent bile leak (n=1).
- Ten patients underwent repeat ERCP within 6 months, and in one patient the biodegradable stent remained in situ at 5 months.
- Over 94% of biliary stents were inserted in the first study year, with only 1 biliary stent placed in the final 3 years, demonstrating a shift in practice toward pancreatic stents.
- The authors suggest biodegradable stents may be safe and cost-effective by reducing the need for repeat procedures, though they note limited prospective data and poorly understood complication profiles.

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