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Summary

NEXT-GENERATION SEQUENCING OF BILE CELL-FREE DNA IN INDETERMINATE BILIARY STRICTURES. A COST PERSPECTIVE

Jesús M. Urman

UEG Week Copenhagen 2023 | Poster

Hepatobiliary

October 15, 2023

A pilot study comparing BILEMUT, a bile cfDNA mutational analysis performed at first ERCP, to standard repeated testing for indeterminate biliary strictures found comparable diagnostic accuracy at lower cost and faster turnaround time.

KEY POINTS

- In 16 patients requiring further testing after first ERCP, median cost was 8641.52 euros for standard practice versus 1223 euros for BILEMUT.
- Both strategies achieved the same diagnostic accuracy of 81.3 percent in this cohort, though with different sensitivity and specificity profiles.
- BILEMUT median turnaround time was 10 days compared to 43 days for standard clinical practice to reach final diagnosis.
- The study suggests BILEMUT could reduce the number of invasive diagnostic tests needed, though no complications occurred with either approach in this cohort.
- This prospective pilot study of 68 patients with biliary strictures from a tertiary hospital may be of interest to gastroenterologists managing indeterminate biliary strictures.

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