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Summary

FATTY PANCREAS IS A RISK FACTOR FOR PANCREATIC CANCER: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS OF 2,956 PATIENTS

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Pancreas

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A systematic review and meta-analysis of 17 studies involving 2,956 patients found that fatty pancreas is significantly more common in pancreatic cancer patients, with over six times higher odds compared to those without pancreatic cancer.

KEY POINTS

- The odds of having fatty pancreas among pancreatic cancer patients were more than six times higher (OR 6.13; 95% CI 2.61-14.42) than in patients without pancreatic cancer.
- The proportion of fatty pancreas among pancreatic cancer patients was 0.62 (95% CI 0.42-0.79), higher than in non-pancreatic cancer patients.
- The presence of pancreatic cancer among patients with fatty pancreas was 32% (OR 1.32; 95% CI 0.42-4.16).
- Fatty pancreas is defined as significant fatty infiltration of the pancreatic parenchyma in the absence of chronic, excessive alcohol intake and is suspected as a possible modifiable risk factor for pancreatic cancer development.
- The authors suggest that proper patient management among those with identified predisposing factors for pancreatic cancer can result in better survival rates.

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