URSODEOXYCHOLIC ACID IS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH REDUCED RECURRENCE OF PRIMARY COMMON BILE DUCT STONES

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A cohort analysis of 98 patients found no significant difference in common bile duct stone recurrence between those who took ursodeoxycholic acid after endoscopic stone removal and those who did not.

KEY POINTS

- Stone recurrence occurred in 26.7% of patients who took UDCA compared to 32.4% in those who did not take UDCA, a difference that was not statistically significant (P=0.75)
- The study included 98 patients who underwent ERCP with complete CBD stone clearance; 30 patients took UDCA and 68 did not
- Previous sphincterectomy was more common in the UDCA treatment group (70% versus 17.6%), but other baseline characteristics and index ERCP findings were similar between groups
- The findings do not support the use of UDCA for preventing de-novo CBD stone recurrence after cholecystectomy and complete CBD clearance
- This material would be most relevant to gastroenterologists and endoscopists managing patients with choledocholithiasis

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