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Summary

DIAGNOSTIC ACCURACY OF DIFFERENT CHOLANGIOSCOPY-GUIDED BIOPSY TECHNIQUES FOR THE DIAGNOSIS OF INDETERMINATE BILIARY DUCT STRICTURES

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In a prospective multicenter study of 89 patients with indeterminate biliary strictures, bite-on-bite biopsy during digital single-operator cholangioscopy did not outperform standard single biopsies, with both techniques combined achieving 60.8% sensitivity and 100% specificity.

KEY POINTS

- Both single biopsies (at least 4) and bite-on-bite biopsies were technically successful in over 87% of cases, confirming malignancy in 31/82 and 29/78 patients respectively, with different results in only 4/78 patients (5.1%)
- The two techniques yielded 75.6% overall accuracy when combined, but sensitivity and accuracy decreased significantly when a stent had been placed at prior endoscopic retrograde cholangiography (41.6% of patients) or when prior intra-ductal tissue acquisition had been performed (46.1% of patients)
- The number of bite-on-bite biopsies obtained did not affect sensitivity or accuracy, and no adverse events related to digital single-operator cholangioscopy guided biopsies were observed
- This study is relevant for gastroenterologists and endoscopists determining optimal biopsy strategies for indeterminate biliary strictures during cholangioscopy

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