PREDICTORS OF BILE CULTURE POSITIVITY AND MICROBIAL PROFILE ALTERATIONS IN ERCP FOR CHOLEDOCHOLITHIASIS

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A retrospective study of 1,156 patients undergoing ERCP for choledocholithiasis identified older age, fever, and periampullary diverticula as independent predictors of positive bile culture, and found that microbial composition shifts significantly in recurrent admissions with increased prevalence of healthcare-associated organisms including AmpC-producing bacteria.

KEY POINTS

- Older age (OR 1.05 per year), higher body temperature (OR 1.66 per °C), and presence of periampullary diverticula (OR 1.81) independently predicted bile culture positivity at initial ERCP in multivariate analysis of 738 patients with cultures.
- Microbial composition differed significantly across sequential admission episodes (PERMANOVA p=0.001), with Escherichia coli remaining most common but Klebsiella oxytoca (9.6% vs 24.0%), Enterococcus faecalis (5.2% vs 16.0%), and Citrobacter freundii (2.8% vs 12.0%) significantly more prevalent in recurrent versus initial cases.
- AmpC-producing organisms were significantly more common in recurrent admissions (0.8% vs 6.0%, p<0.001) despite similar overall antimicrobial resistance rates (11.8% vs 13.3%).
- The authors suggest empirical antibiotic therapy should be stratified based on recurrence history given the dynamic microbial shifts observed.
- This study may inform antibiotic selection strategies for clinicians managing patients with recurrent choledocholithiasis undergoing ERCP.

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