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Summary

LACTOFERRIN VERSUS CALPROTECTIN – NOVEL PROGNOSTIC AND PREDICTIVE MARKERS FOR EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF SPONTANEOUS BACTERIAL PERITONITIS IN PATIENTS WITH LIVER CIRRHOSIS

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Ascitic calprotectin and lactoferrin total-protein-ratios show promise as early diagnostic and prognostic biomarkers for spontaneous bacterial peritonitis in patients with liver cirrhosis.

KEY POINTS

- Ascitic calprotectin correlated significantly with PMN cell count (r=0.7, p<0.001) with 83% sensitivity and 98% specificity at a 4.4 mg/ml cut-off, while calprotectin-total-protein-ratio showed 79% sensitivity and 93% specificity at a 208x10^-6 cut-off
- Calprotectin-total-protein-ratio and lactoferrin-total-protein-ratio detected SBP before PMN count exceeded the standard diagnostic threshold of 250 cells/µl
- Time course analyses showed that calprotectin-total-protein-ratio and lactoferrin-total-protein-ratio increased during SBP development and decreased with recovery, tracking disease progression
- In 190 ascitic fluid samples from 128 patients, SBP samples showed higher median calprotectin levels (8999 ng/ml vs 539 ng/ml in non-infectious samples) and higher calprotectin-total-protein-ratios (5x10^-4 vs 3x10^-5)
- This study may interest clinicians managing cirrhotic patients with ascites who seek earlier SBP detection than current PMN count-based diagnosis allows

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