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Summary

BILE ACIDS PROFILE IN ACUTE PANCREATITIS PATIENTS: THE ROLE OF HYDROPHOBICITY

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Pancreas

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In 214 acute pancreatitis patients, elevated hydrophobic bile acids were associated with biliary etiology and disease deterioration, while the hydrophilic bile acid ursodeoxycholic acid showed an inverse association with severity.

KEY POINTS

- Hydrophobic bile acid concentrations were significantly higher in biliary acute pancreatitis (33.86±4.51 µM) compared to non-biliary cases (8.068±1.98 µM, p<0.0001), while hydrophilic bile acids did not differ from controls in non-biliary disease.
- Patients with worsening disease (Δ APACHE II >0) had significantly higher total hydrophobic bile acids (55.8±12.3 µM) than those who recovered or remained stable (5.9±0.6 µM).
- Hydrophobic bile acids predicted disease deterioration with an area under the curve of 0.762, sensitivity 83.75%, and specificity 60% at a cut-off of 11.84 µM.
- Ursodeoxycholic acid was significantly decreased in severe disease and concentrations below 19 nM distinguished biliary from non-biliary acute pancreatitis with 75% sensitivity and 65% specificity.
- The study used liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry to quantify 20 different bile acids in serum from patients and healthy controls.

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