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Summary

PRE-THERAPEUTIC ASSESSMENT OF TOTAL PSOAS AREA INDEX IN PANCREATIC CANCER: IMPACT ON PATIENT OUTCOMES

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Pancreas

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A retrospective study of 30 pancreatic adenocarcinoma patients found that sarcopenia assessed by total psoas area index was associated with significantly reduced survival compared to non-sarcopenic patients.

KEY POINTS

- Sarcopenia, defined by total psoas area index thresholds of less than 414.5 mm^2/m^2 for females and 564.2 mm^2/m^2 for males measured at the third lumbar vertebra on CT, was present in 66% of the 30 patients studied.
- Sarcopenic patients had significantly shorter mean survival compared to non-sarcopenic patients (7.80 versus 20.40 months, p=0.028) with a hazard ratio of 2.95.
- Sarcopenia was significantly associated with lower albumin levels but not with diabetes, smoking, anemia, lymphopenia, or CA 19-9 levels.
- The total psoas area index demonstrated good predictive accuracy for 12-month survival with an AUC of 0.871.
- This single-center retrospective study suggests total psoas area index may serve as an accessible marker for pre-therapeutic risk stratification in pancreatic cancer patients.

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