A STUDY ON THE LEARNING CURVE OF THE NOVEL THROUGH-THE-SCOPE SYSTEM FOR ENDOSCOPIC CLOSURE

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A porcine model study found that both expert and beginner endoscopists required six cases to achieve proficiency with a novel through-the-scope suture system for closing gastric mucosal defects.

KEY POINTS

- Both a beginner endoscopist (under 400 upper GI endoscopies) and an expert (over 500 endoscopic submucosal dissections) required six cases to achieve closure time below the literature-based mean of 7.7 minutes.
- Median closure times were similar between the beginner (8.2 minutes, IQR 5.6-10.1) and expert (8.0 minutes, IQR 6.3-9.4), with no statistically significant difference (P=0.8624).
- Complete closure success rates were 83.3% for the beginner and 75.0% for the expert when closing 2-4 cm gastric mucosal defects in four porcine models.
- No adverse events occurred in either group across all 24 procedures performed.
- This study provides the first proficiency data for the TTS helix and tack suture system, which may be relevant for training programs in endoscopic closure techniques.

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