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Summary

RAMAN SPECTROSCOPY IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF MALIGNANT BILIARY STRICTURE – A FEASIBILITY STUDY

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Hepatobiliary

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A pilot study demonstrates the technical feasibility of transpapillary Raman spectroscopy during ERCP for biliary stricture evaluation, though current data cannot yet distinguish cholangiocarcinoma from normal bile duct.

KEY POINTS

- Twenty patients with suspected malignant biliary stricture underwent transpapillary Raman spectroscopy during ERCP, with 11 having a final diagnosis of cholangiocarcinoma verified by brush cytology
- Transpapillary insertion of the Raman probe was successful in 75% of cases, with no procedure-related complications or mechanical damage to the probe
- Visual analysis showed that duodenal Raman spectroscopy patterns differed from both normal bile duct and cholangiocarcinoma patterns
- Current data does not allow full discrimination between cholangiocarcinoma and normal bile duct, requiring further data processing to achieve suitable selectivity and specificity
- This feasibility study would interest interventional endoscopists and researchers exploring optical diagnostic methods for biliary pathology

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