

Mistakes in the management of acute pancreatitis and how to avoid them

Peter Simon

Mistakes In Articles

Pancreas

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Acute pancreatitis is most commonly caused by alcohol and gallstones, with 80–85% of cases being mild while the remainder require intensive multidisciplinary care for potentially life-threatening complications.

KEY POINTS

- Excessive alcohol consumption and gallstone disease are by far the most common risk factors for acute pancreatitis, while certain drugs, genetic mutations, and possibly smoking are also associated with its development
- 80–85% of patients have mild disease and recover with fluid therapy and analgesia, while the remainder develop moderately severe to severe disease with pancreatic necrosis, severe sepsis, or abdominal compartment syndrome
- Patients with severe disease are at immediate danger of multiorgan failure and death and require multidisciplinary intensive care, organ support, and often pancreatic interventions by experienced investigators
- Treatment in specialized high-volume centres is recommended because outcomes are difficult to predict and complications develop during the disease course

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