ENDOSCOPIC SURVEILLANCE IN PATIENTS WITH PATHOGENIC VARIANTS IN CDH1 OR CTNNA1 – A REAL WORLD SCENARIO

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Endoscopic surveillance with random biopsies detected diffuse gastric cancer in 28% of CDH1 and CTNNA1 germline variant carriers, with no incident advanced tumors observed when initial endoscopy showed no macroscopic cancer.

KEY POINTS

- In 121 CDH1 or CTNNA1 pathogenic germline variant carriers followed at eight German centers from 2008 to April 2023, diffuse gastric cancer was detected endoscopically in 34 patients (28%) aged 14-53 years, with 14 patients (12%) presenting with metastatic disease.
- Random biopsies detected cancer in 15 of 34 cases (44%) where targeted biopsies alone would have missed disease, representing a 41% under-diagnosis rate if random sampling were omitted; median 31 random biopsies (range 2-100) were taken.
- Prophylactic total gastrectomy without prior endoscopic cancer detection was performed in 53 patients, revealing signet ring cell carcinoma in 31 (59%), with multifocal disease in 23 of these 31 patients (74%) and all lesions confined to mucosa (pT1a).
- Among 20 deaths during follow-up, 17 were due to gastric or lobular breast cancer; all patients who died from gastric cancer were diagnosed at their initial endoscopy, with no incident advanced tumors observed in those with negative initial macroscopic findings.
- This real-world cohort study informs surveillance strategies for individuals with hereditary diffuse gastric cancer syndromes and the role of random biopsy protocols in early cancer detection.

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