ABC SCORE FOR LOWER GASTROINTESTINAL HAEMORRHAGE: DOES IT TELL US MORE THAN ONE-MONTH SURVIVAL?

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The ABC score accurately predicted 30-day survival in acute lower gastrointestinal bleeding patients at a single centre but did not predict need for investigations, critical care admission, or guide initial management decisions.

KEY POINTS

- In 273 admissions with lower gastrointestinal bleeding, the ABC score predicted 30-day survival with high accuracy (area under the curve 0.97), though most patients with high ABC scores nonetheless survived.
- The ABC score did not accurately predict lower GI endoscopy, CT mesenteric angiograms, outpatient investigations, or admission to critical care.
- Half of patients with high ABC scores (15 out of 30 with scores of 8 or more) were described as too frail for invasive procedures such as endoscopy, reflecting the score's weighting toward chronic conditions.
- Patients with intermediate ABC scores were most likely to be admitted to critical care, while those with low scores had the shortest length of stay.
- The authors conclude the ABC score is unlikely to contribute to clinical decision-making in initial management of lower gastrointestinal bleeding and recommend further large-scale studies to guide critical care admission and urgent intervention.

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