DIAGNOSIS OF BILIARY STRICTURES USING PROBE-BASED CONFOCAL LASER ENDOMICROSCOPY UNDER THE DIRECT VIEW OF PERORAL CHOLANGIOSCOPY

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A prospective study of 30 patients with biliary strictures found that probe-based confocal laser endomicroscopy under direct view of peroral cholangioscopy achieved 93.3% diagnostic accuracy with 94.1% sensitivity and 92.3% specificity for malignancy.

KEY POINTS

- In 30 patients (17 malignant lesions), pCLE under direct POCS view achieved 93.3% accuracy (95% CI 78.7–98.8%), outperforming ERCP alone (70% accuracy) and matching POCS alone (90% accuracy) and tissue sampling under POCS (90% accuracy).
- The pCLE technique showed 94.1% sensitivity and 92.3% specificity for malignancy diagnosis, with images interpreted prospectively using the Miami Classification.
- The success rate was 88.2% (30/34 patients), with POCS unable to pass the stricture in four cases; median procedure time was 42 minutes (IQR 31.3–48 minutes).
- Adverse events occurred in three patients: one mild pancreatitis and two mild cholangitis cases.
- Diagnostic accuracy did not differ significantly by stricture location (common bile duct 86.7%, hilar and intrahepatic bile duct 100%; P=0.48).

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