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Summary

SAFETY AND EFFICACY OF ENDO- BILIARY RADIOFREQUENCY ABLATION FOR STENT OCCLUSION: A CASE SERIES

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Hepatobiliary

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A retrospective case series of 28 endo-biliary radiofrequency ablation procedures in 12 patients with occluded uncovered biliary stents demonstrated consistent bilirubin reduction and no complications.

KEY POINTS

- All 11 monitored procedures resulted in bilirubin reduction within 1-4 weeks, with average reductions of 61.4% at week 1 and 77.4% at weeks 2-4
- Survival at 90 days was 70% overall and 100% for cholangiocarcinoma patients specifically
- No complications were recorded across 28 procedures performed by 3 operators between February 2020 and March 2023
- Technical difficulties occurred in 2 cases involving bilobar stents with Y configuration due to probe contact with metal at the hilum
- The authors conclude that randomised controlled trials are needed to determine whether survival benefit is due to biliary drainage alone or includes an anti-tumour effect

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