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Summary

ASSOCIATION BETWEEN UPPER GASTROINTESTINAL BLEEDING AND SPONTANEOUS BACTERIAL PERITONITIS IN PATIENTS WITH LIVER CIRRHOSIS

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A prospective study of 70 hospitalized patients with liver cirrhosis and ascites found no significant association between upper gastrointestinal bleeding and spontaneous bacterial peritonitis, challenging the presumed pathophysiological link between these complications.

KEY POINTS

- Upper gastrointestinal bleeding was observed in 14.3% of patients with spontaneous bacterial peritonitis and 11.4% of patients without spontaneous bacterial peritonitis, with no statistically significant difference between groups.
- Among patients with spontaneous bacterial peritonitis, the presence of upper gastrointestinal bleeding was not associated with increased ascitic calprotectin levels, indicating no significant enhancement of intraperitoneal inflammatory activity.
- The study included 70 patients divided into two equal groups of 35 patients with and without spontaneous bacterial peritonitis, all of whom underwent upper gastrointestinal endoscopy and ascitic fluid analysis.
- The authors conclude that larger multicenter prospective studies are needed to confirm these findings given the relatively small sample size of this study.

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