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Summary

ENDOSCOPIC DETECTION OF ESOPHAGEAL SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA (ESCC) USING NOVEL FLUORESCENCE PROBE TARGETING DIPEPTIDYLPEPTIDASE IV (DPP-IV)

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Oesophagus

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A first-in-human phase 1 trial of topical fluorescence probe EP-HMRG for esophageal squamous cell carcinoma detection demonstrated safety in 6 patients but achieved 83% diagnostic accuracy, lower than prior ex vivo results.

KEY POINTS

- EP-HMRG is a novel topical fluorescence probe that emits green fluorescence when cleaved by DPP-IV, which is overexpressed in esophageal squamous cell carcinoma
- The phase 1 trial enrolled 6 patients scheduled for endoscopic resection between November 2019 and February 2021, applying 20 mL of 50 μM EP-HMRG solution to the esophagus
- No adverse events related to EP-HMRG occurred; 4 patients experienced mild dysphagia and chest pain attributed to the endoscopic resection procedure itself
- Diagnostic performance showed 67% positive predictive value, 100% negative predictive value, and 83% overall accuracy, with no cancer detected in non-fluorescent areas and squamous cell carcinoma confirmed in 4 of 6 fluorescent sites
- The authors attribute the lower-than-expected accuracy to limitations of the prototype fluorescence endoscope, which produced dark images and may have caused sampling errors

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