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Summary

PIVKA-II AS A MARKER OF CHRONIC LIVER DISEASE SEVERITY

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A study of 69 patients with chronic liver disease without malignancy found that PIVKA-II concentrations were significantly elevated beyond manufacturer cut-offs in benign disease, particularly in decompensated cirrhosis, and correlated with disease severity markers.

KEY POINTS

- PIVKA-II concentrations were significantly higher in decompensated cirrhosis (median 245 µg/L) compared to compensated cirrhosis (median 35.1 µg/L) and no fibrosis (median 25.6 µg/L), with P=0.0008, using the Elecsys assay with manufacturer cut-off of 31.2 µg/L
- Statistically significant correlations were found between PIVKA-II and total bilirubin (ρ=0.576, P=0.0001), INR (ρ=0.471, P=0.0019), and MELD-Na score (ρ=0.483, P=0.0155)
- The authors conclude that elevated PIVKA-II concentrations well beyond manufacturer cut-offs may occur in benign liver disease, with higher levels expected in more severe chronic liver disease
- Clinicians using PIVKA-II for hepatocellular carcinoma screening should be aware that chronic liver disease severity influences PIVKA-II levels independent of malignancy

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