

DOES ENDOSCOPIC RETROGRADE CHOLANGIOGRAPHY (ERC) HAVE A ROLE IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF BILIARY DISORDERS?

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Introduction

Biliary disorders can be diagnosed with non invasive imaging

techniques such as Magnetic Resonance Cholangiography (MRC) and Spiral Computerized Axial Tomography (CT scan). Hence, the role of ERC in the management of biliary disorders is mainly therapeutic. The aim of this study was to identify the diagnostic yield of ERC.

Methodology

Records of patients referred to the University Surgery Department for ERC over a period of 7 years were retrospectively analyzed. All the patients had undergone US abdomen, CT scan or both prior to ERCP.

Results

There were 362 patients of whom 213 were males, Male: Female ratio 1.41:1, 253 patients (69.88%) were below 60 years and the range was 17 years to 79 years.

Out of the study population 159 patients (43.92%) had duct dilatation, 105 (29%) patients had common bile duct (CBD) stones and 40 (11.04%) had biliary strictures on other previous radiological investigations. In 43 (11.9%) patients there were significant ERC findings which were not revealed by other radiological methods.

Conclusion and discussion

ERC continues to have a diagnostic role in biliary disorders especially when there is limited access to MRC and EUS. However diagnostic accuracy of ERC is variable according to the available literature, being as high as 100% for CBD stones and as low as 85% for malignant strictures.

Paper 4

ACUTE INTESTINAL OBSTRUCTION : SINGLE SURGICAL UNIT EXPERIENCE SHOULD WE TREAT ALL ADULT HERNIAS EARLY?

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Introduction

Acute intestinal obstruction (AIO) is a surgical emergency. Aim of this prospective study was to identify the cause/s & co morbidities of patients with AIO.