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II Brazilian consensus statement on endoscopic ultrasonography

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Abstract

Background and Objectives:

At the time of its introduction in the early 80s, endoscopic ultrasonography (EUS) was indicated for diagnostic purposes. Recently, EUS has been employed to assist or to be the main platform of complex therapeutic interventions.

Methods:

From a series of relevant new topics in the literature and based on the need to complement the I Brazilian consensus on EUS, twenty experienced endosonographers identified and reviewed the pertinent literature in databases. The quality of evidence, strength of recommendations, and level of consensus were graded and voted on.

Results:

Consensus was reached for eight relevant topics: treatment of gastric varices, staging of nonsmall cell lung cancer, biliary drainage, tissue sampling of subepithelial lesions (SELs), treatment of pancreatic fluid collections, tissue sampling of pancreatic solid lesions, celiac neurolysis, and evaluation of the incidental pancreatic cysts.

Conclusions:

There is a high level of evidence for staging of nonsmall cell lung cancer; biopsy of SELs as the safest method; unilateral and bilateral injection techniques are equivalent for EUS-guided celiac neurolysis, and in patients with visible ganglia, celiac ganglia neurolysis appears to lead to better results. There is a moderate level of evidence for: yield of tissue sampling of pancreatic solid lesions is not influenced by the needle shape, gauge, or employed aspiration technique; EUS-guided and percutaneous biliary drainage present similar clinical success and adverse event rates; plastic and metallic stents are equivalent in the EUS-guided treatment of pancreatic pseudocyst. There is a low level of evidence in the routine use of EUS-guided treatment of gastric varices.

INTRODUCTION

At the time of its introduction in the early 80s,^[1] endoscopic ultrasonography (EUS) was indicated for diagnostic purposes. Classical indications included oncological staging and evaluation of subepithelial and pancreatic lesions. Histological sampling of peridigestive structures and intramural lesions of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract wall became possible in the 90s with the advent of EUS-guided fine-needle aspiration (EUS-FNA).^[2] More recently, EUS has been employed to assist or to be the main platform for complex therapeutic interventions, such as bile duct drainage, treatment of peripancreatic fluid collections (PFCs), celiac neurolysis, and embolization of gastroesophageal varices.

In 2009, a consensus group identified the best evidence supporting the use of EUS and compiled those evidences in the 1st Brazilian consensus on EUS. Based on that report,^[3] the consensus panel concluded that EUS provided useful information for the staging of esophageal cancer, differential diagnosis of subepithelial lesions (SELs), thickened gastric folds, assessment of peritoneal involvement in gastric cancer, evaluation of mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue lymphoma, diagnosis of common bile duct/gallbladder stones, diagnosis of chronic pancreatitis, differential diagnosis of a solid tumors in patients with chronic pancreatitis, differential diagnosis of pancreatic cysts, rectal cancer staging, and diagnosis and staging of nonsmall cell lung cancer. At that time, the consensus panel felt that several EUS indications would continue to emerge and require additional validation.

Seven years after publication of the first consensus, the Brazilian Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy encouraged the organization of a 2nd consensus meeting to reevaluate some of the conclusions of the 1st edition and to debate the evolving indications of therapeutic EUS.

METHOD

From a series of relevant new topics in the literature and based on the need to complement the I Brazilian consensus on EUS,^[3] twenty nationally renowned echoendoscopists were gathered to debate these topics.

Eight relevant topics were identified: EUS in the treatment of gastric varices, EUS in the staging of nonsmall cell lung cancer, EUS-guided biliary drainage, EUS tissue sampling of SELs of the GI tract wall, EUS-guided treatment of pancreatic fluid collections, EUS-FNA of pancreatic solid lesions, EUS-

guided celiac neurolysis, and EUS for the evaluation of the incidental pancreatic cysts. The topics were transformed into questions which were presented to the experts 6 months before the definitive consensus meeting. The experts debated the questions, suggestions were raised, and the 19 resulting questions were distributed among the participants. Members of the consensus panel were asked to answer the questions based on the best available evidence and to rate the evidence degree found in the literature by adopting the Oxford System [Table 1]. Six months later, the 19 questions were discussed by the group during a consensus meeting, resulting in 43 recommendations. The recommendations were voted individually. When at least 70% of the participants were in agreement with the voted recommendation, consensus was considered to have been reached.

Oxford Centre for Evidence-based Medicine - Levels of Evidence (March 2008)			
Level of recommendation	Level of evidence	Therapy/prevention - etiology	Diagnosis
1	1a	SR (with homogeneity) of RCTs	SR (with homogeneity) of level 1 diagnostic studies; CRB with 10 studies from different clinical centers
	1b	Individual RCT (with narrow CI)	Systematic cohort study with good reference standards; CRB based on 10 or more clinical centers
	1c	All or none	Multiple RCTs and cohort studies
2	2a	SR (with homogeneity) of cohort studies	SR (with homogeneity) of level 2 diagnostic studies
	2b	Individual cohort study (including non-specific RCT for therapy, with follow-up)	Exploratory cohort study with good reference standards; CRB after derivation, or validated with an appropriate population
	2c	"Observational" research, ecological studies	
	2d	SR (with homogeneity) of case-control studies	SR (with homogeneity) of 2b and better studies
	2e	Individual case-control study	
3	3	Case series (and poor quality cohort and case-control studies)	Noncomparative study, or without consistently applied reference standards
4	4	Expert opinion (without explicit critical appraisal, or based on philosophy, bench research or theoretical grounds)	Case-control study, poor or inconsistent reference standard

Table 1:

Level of scientific evidence according to the type of study

Three of the organizers (JFO, EQM, and FMF) wrote this report and sent it electronically to all the participants of the meeting who approved it for publication. None of them has any conflict of interest related to the consensus issues.

RESULTS

Comparison of endoscopic treatment versus endoscopic ultrasonography-guided treatment for obliteration of gastric varices

Gastric varices obliteration by cyanoacrylate endoscopic injection is effective.[⁴⁵⁶⁷]

Recommendation: B – 100% vote; evidence level 2a.

EUS may be useful for evaluation of gastric variceal eradication in case of doubt.[⁴⁵]

Recommendation: B – 100% vote; evidence level 2a.

EUS-guided treatment of varices type 1 isolated gastric varices (IGV1) and gastroesophageal varices 2 through the combination of cyanoacrylate injection and coil may be an option in the failure of conventional endoscopic treatment.[⁵⁶]

Recommendation: C – 100% vote; evidence level 3a.

The EUS-guided treatment of gastric fundal varices presents similar efficacy to conventional endoscopic treatment, with a lower complication rate, especially pulmonary embolism, even asymptomatic.[⁶]

Recommendation: C – 100% vote; evidence level 4.

Discussion

The use of endoscopic injection of cyanoacrylate for the treatment of fundal gastric varices is supported by the high level of evidence.^[8] Recently, EUS-guided embolization of gastric varices with coil and/or cyanoacrylate has been reported in some case series.^[467] A small retrospective comparative study suggests that EUS-guided coil embolization requires fewer sessions for gastric varices obliteration with fewer adverse events.^[6] The consensus panel discussed that EUS-guided coil embolization has important availability and cost issues compared with endoscopic injection of cyanoacrylate. On the other hand, the coil technique seems to reduce embolism events albeit it is recognized that most embolism events are asymptomatic. Those facts argue in favor of the use of EUS-guided coil embolization in patients at risk of embolism, such as the pediatric population (*e.g.*, congenital cardiac conditions) or spontaneous portosystemic shunts (*e.g.*, IGV1 large gastric varices).

Endoscopic ultrasonography in the staging of nonsmall cell lung cancer

It is recommended to perform EUS-guided puncture (EUS-FNA and/or endobronchial ultrasound [EBUS]-FNA) in patients with positron emission tomography-computed tomography (PET-CT) or CT demonstrating mediastinal lymph node enlargement.^[91011]

Recommendation: A – 100% vote; evidence level 1a.

EUS-FNA and/or EBUS-FNA are recommended in patients with PET-CT or CT with no evidence of mediastinal lymphadenopathy but presenting:

- Primary tumor of central location,
- Primary tumor with low uptake by PET-CT, or
- Presence of ipsilateral hilar lymph node enlargement (N1).^[91011]

Recommendation: C and D – 100% vote; evidence level 4 and 5.

Complementation with surgical staging (mediastinoscopy or other methods) is recommended in the case of nondiagnostic puncture by echoendoscopy.^[91011]

Recommendation: B – 100% vote; evidence level 2a.

Combined performance of EUS-FNA and EBUS-FNA is preferred to the execution of each method alone.

Recommendation: C – 100% vote; evidence level 4.

In patients with suspected left adrenal metastasis, it is suggested to perform EUS-FNA for diagnostic elucidation.^[91011]

Recommendation: C – 100% vote; evidence level 4.

Note: EBUS is not widely available in our country.

Discussion

It is recognized that EUS alone, EBUS alone, and combined EUS + EBUS have good sensitivity (83%–94%) for mediastinal staging of lung cancer. Therefore, in case of enlarged mediastinal lymph nodes on CT or PET-CT, EUS/EBUS with FNA is the first choice for tissue diagnosis. However, if lymph nodes are not present, the lesion is smaller than 3 cm and located in the outer third of the lung, surgery can be performed directly.^[9]

The adrenal gland is the primary metastatic site of the lung cancer, this way, it should always be evaluated during EUS. In the suspicion of metastatic lesion, tissue diagnosis is mandatory.[¹⁰]

Endoscopic ultrasonography-guided biliary drainage

Comparison of endoscopic ultrasonography-guided biliary drainage *versus* transparietohepatic (percutaneous biliary drainage) in endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography failure

The technical and clinical successes of the EUS-guided and percutaneous access to endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) failure for drainage of the extrahepatic biliary tract are similar. The adverse events of these accesses are different but with similar rate. Local expertise and availability should be taken into account when choosing the approach. Whenever possible, the choice of the access should be the result of a multidisciplinary approach.[⁵¹²¹³¹⁴]

Recommendation: B – 85% vote; evidence level: 2b.

Extra- or intra-hepatic access?

For EUS-guided biliary drainage, either by the rendezvous (RV) or transluminal (TL) technique, intra- or extra-hepatic accesses may be used. There are few prospective studies comparing both techniques. Current evidence suggests similar results but with lower rates of complications with the extrahepatic access. There is a lack of better quality studies comparing EUS-guided biliary drainage with intra- and extra-hepatic accesses.[¹⁵¹⁶¹⁷]

Recommendation: B – 95% vote; evidence level: 2b.

Biliary drainage by rendezvous *versus* transluminal

When for the option of EUS-guided biliary drainage due to ERCP failure, two drainage techniques are available: RV and TL. There are few studies comparing these techniques, and they suggest similar results and safety. Unfortunately, there is a lack of better quality studies comparing EUS-guided biliary drainage by RV and TL techniques.[¹⁸]

Recommendation: B – 95% vote; evidence level: 2b.

Hepaticogastrostomy *versus* choledochoduodenostomy

For the EUS-guided biliary drainage by the TL technique, the techniques of hepaticogastrostomy and choledochoduodenostomy can be used. There are few prospective studies comparing these techniques. Current evidence suggests similar efficacies but with lower rates of complications in favor of choledochoduodenostomy. More studies of better quality comparing the TL EUS-guided biliary drainage by hepaticogastrostomy technique and choledochoduodenostomy are warranted.[¹⁵]

Recommendation: B – 100% vote; evidence level: 2b.

Endoscopic ultrasonography-guided biliary drainage: Plastic *versus* metal stents

We found only one study comparing metal and plastic stents for EUS-guided biliary drainage. The study suggests that the technical and clinical successes are similar although the rate of biliary fistula is higher with plastic stents. The consensus group recommends the use of partially or fully covered metal stents in the biliary drainage whenever possible. There is a need for better quality comparative studies.
[¹⁶]

Recommendation: C – 100% vote; evidence level: 4.

Discussion

In the case of unsuccessful transpapillary drainage of the biliary tree, the available alternatives are surgery, EUS-guided biliary drainage, and percutaneous biliary drainage. The last two options present similar success and complication rates although the EUS access seems to be less invasive.^[5121314]

There are major differences between RV *versus* TL and extra- *versus* intra-hepatic approaches. However, choledochoduodenostomy (extrahepatic) complication rate seems to be lower when compared with hepaticogastrostomy.^[15161718]

In summary, indications and methods for EUS-guided biliary drainage are still being standardized, and therefore, the approach should be individualized for each patient based on the local expertise and patient's conditions.

Endoscopic ultrasonography for subepithelial lesions

When is endoscopic ultrasonography-fine-needle aspiration is indicated for subepithelial lesions?

It is suggested to perform EUS-FNA of asymptomatic SELs of the muscularis propria of the stomach, duodenum, and rectum, larger than 10 mm. It is recognized that diagnostic yield is higher for lesions larger than 20 mm. Irregular borders, cystic areas, body/antrum location as well as age >60 years strengthen the indication. Unsampled lesions should undergo endoscopic and/or EUS reevaluation although there is no consensus of the interval and duration of the follow-up.

Recommendation: C – 95% vote; evidence level: 4.

The use of elastography and contrasts is an additional option for the selection of lesions to be sampled.^[1920]

Recommendation: C – 100% vote; evidence level: 4.

Half of the asymptomatic patients do not accept to remain in follow-up, and two-thirds of those in prolonged follow-up refuse resection in the case of enlargement of their lesions. Such facts could strengthen the need to obtain tissue diagnosis.^[21]

Recommendation: C – 95% vote; evidence level: 4.

Asymptomatic SELs of the esophageal muscularis propria layer >3 cm should be biopsied to differentiate leiomyomas from other potentially malignant lesions.

No agreement – 40% vote; evidence level: 4.

In the suspicion of the following lesions, regardless of the lesion size, tissue confirmation is necessary:

- GI stromal tumor with indication of neoadjuvant therapy
- Intramural metastases
- Lymphoma
- Neuroendocrine tumors
- Extrinsic neoplasia.

Recommendation: D – 100% vote; evidence level: 5.

Tissue diagnosis of subepithelial lesions of the digestive tract: Endoscopic ultrasonography-fine-needle aspiration X alternative methods

EUS-guided puncture is the safest method for histopathological diagnosis of SEL of the digestive tract. [22]

Recommendation: A – 100% vote; evidence level: 1b.

The type of needle (aspiration/trucut/pro-core) or caliber does not alter the diagnostic accuracy of the EUS-guided puncture for the diagnosis of SEL. The choice of needle depends on the location of the lesion and the preference of the endoscopist.[22]

Recommendation: B – 100% vote; evidence level: 2b.

Alternative methods for histopathological diagnosis of SEL of the digestive tract (such as mucosectomy, unroofing) are better than EUS-FNA for lesions <20 mm. They are an option when EUS-FNA is not available but with significant rates of bleeding and perforation.[22232425]

Recommendation: C – 95% vote; evidence level: 4.

For SEL located above the muscularis propria, <2 cm, where the EUS-FNA results are usually less satisfactory, biopsy-on-biopsy, unroofing, or endoscopic resection, either by ligature, mucosectomy, or submucosal dissection is valid options.[2324]

Recommendation: C – 100% vote; evidence level: 4.

Endoscopic resection of the SEL of the muscularis propria, whether by submucosal dissection/tunneling or transmural resection, are techniques under evaluation and should be performed in referral centers with expertise.[26]

Recommendation: D – 95% vote; evidence level: 5.

Discussion

Tissue sampling of a SEL of the GI tract should be indicated whenever a premalignant or malignant lesion cannot be ruled out by EUS imaging alone. In practical terms, hypoechoic lesions located in the muscularis propria measuring between 10 and 30 mm are the best candidates for tissue sampling. The consensus panel is in agreement that gastric, duodenal, and rectal lesions have a higher malignant potential when compared with esophageal lesions.[22232425]

The available literature does support the superiority neither of a specific technique nor a needle caliber or model for increasing the diagnostic yield of EUS-guided tissue sampling for SEL. The diagnostic yield of EUS-guided tissue sampling is around 65%–70%.[22]

High-quality studies comparing EUS-FNA with alternative methods for histopathological diagnosis of SEL such as unroofing, mucosectomy, and submucosal dissection are lacking. Nevertheless, the use of these techniques is supported specially for lesions <20 mm of from the submucosal and inner muscular propria layers where the EUS-FNA accuracy is usually nonsatisfactory.[26]

Endoscopic ultrasonography for peripancreatic fluid collections

Endoscopic ultrasonography in the characterization of peripancreatic fluid collections

Before endoscopic or EUS-guided drainage of PFCs, in addition to CT-scan/magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), EUS may be used for the differential diagnosis of pancreatic cystic neoplasia and detection of necrosis.[²⁷]

Recommendation: D – 100% vote; evidence level: 5.

Endoscopic ultrasonography-guided pancreatic pseudocyst drainage: Plastic *versus* metal stents

Success rates in resolution of pancreatic pseudocyst, frequency of adverse events, and recurrence with plastic or metal stents are similar 85%, 20%, and 10%, respectively.[²⁸]

Recommendation: B – 100% vote; evidence level: 3a.

Endoscopic ultrasonography-guided drainage of walled-off necrosis: Plastic *versus* metal stents

Success rates in the resolution of pancreatic walled-off necrosis (WON), frequency of adverse events, and recurrence of the collection with plastic or metallic stents are similar 70%–75%, 20%, and 10%, respectively.[²⁸]

Recommendation: B – 100% vote; evidence level: 3a.

Endoscopic ultrasonography-guided drainage of peripancreatic fluid collection with luminal-apposing metallic stents

The results of EUS-guided drainage of PFC with luminal-apposing metallic stents (LAMSs) are promising and can improve the results obtained so far.

Recommendation: D – 100% vote; evidence level: 5.

Discussion

The majority of acute PFCs will resolve spontaneously and do not require intervention. The indications for drainage of a PFC are the presence of symptoms, infection, and resolution of infected or enlarging cysts. A study of 242 patients found that mortality was reduced as the time from hospital admission to intervention of the PFC was increased (0–14 days: 56%; 14–29 days: 26%; and >29 days: 15%; $P < 0.001$). Approximately 60% of patients with necrotizing pancreatitis can be managed without an intervention and with low mortality.[²⁹]

Endoscopic treatments usually result in shorter hospital stays, better patient physical and mental health, and lower treatment costs compared with surgery. Although endoscopic and EUS-guided transmural pseudocyst drainage have shown similar clinical efficacy, EUS-guided drainage is preferred even when there is a visible luminal bulging, in a patient with normal hemostasis and no portal hypertension with collaterals.[³⁰³¹³²]

There was no difference in adverse event rates between metal and plastic stents for endoscopic drainage of pseudocyst, and in spite of the rationale that the thick viscosity of necrotic fluid and solid debris present within WON might not be adequately drained using plastic stents, no difference in treatment success rates is shown in the literature. The use of the recently introduced LAMSs is promising, but high-quality comparative studies with plastic and conventional metallic stents are still lacking.[²⁷]

Endoscopic ultrasonography-fine-needle aspiration of pancreatic solid lesions

When to indicate endoscopic ultrasonography-fine-needle aspiration of pancreatic solid lesion?

For surgically resectable lesions: consider EUS-FNA in suspected metastasis, lymphoma, neuroendocrine tumor, or autoimmune pancreatitis.[³³³⁴³⁵³⁶]

For surgically unresectable lesions: EUS-FNA is indicated for oncologic treatment planning.[³³³⁴³⁵³⁶]

When surgical tumor resectability is doubtful: complete staging and if unresectable, EUS-FNA is indicated.[³³³⁴³⁵³⁶]

If EUS-FNA result is negative for neoplasia, but suspicion is still high, repeat EUS-FNA.[³³³⁴³⁵³⁶]

EUS-FNA is indicated in patients referred to neoadjuvant treatment for locally advanced, marginally resectable pancreatic adenocarcinoma.[³⁶]

Recommendation: B – 100% vote; evidence level: 2a.

Elastography and contrast-enhanced EUS are methods that intend to improve the negative predictive value of EUS-FNA, so they are useful as complementary tests, helping to differentiate between solid pancreatic neoplasms and other lesions, as well as guiding the choice of puncture site. However, it should be emphasized that its use does not replace the need of tissue sampling.[³⁶³⁷³⁸]

Recommendation: B – 100% vote; evidence level: 2b.

Endoscopic ultrasonography-fine-needle aspiration techniques for pancreatic solid lesions

There are conflicting data in the literature comparing the efficacy of 19-, 22-, and 25-gauge needles, with no superiority of one over the other.[³⁶³⁹⁴⁰⁴¹⁴²⁴³⁴⁴]

Recommendation: B – 100% vote; evidence level: 2b.

The 25-gauge needle appears to have a diagnostic advantage in transduodenal punctures.[³⁶³⁹⁴⁰⁴¹⁴²⁴³⁴⁴]

Recommendation: B – 100% vote; evidence level: 2b.

Transduodenal puncture should not be performed with a nonflexible 19-gauge needle due to technical difficulties.[³⁶³⁹⁴⁰⁴¹⁴²⁴³⁴⁴]

Recommendation: B – 100% vote; evidence level: 2b.

There is no evidence in the literature demonstrating superiority of the techniques of aspiration suction, use or not of the stylet, or “slow pull.”[³⁶³⁹⁴⁰⁴¹⁴²⁴³⁴⁴]

Recommendation: B – 100% vote; evidence level: 2b.

The “fanning” technique seems to reduce the number of punctures needed for the definitive diagnosis.[³⁶³⁹⁴⁰⁴¹⁴²⁴³⁴⁴]

Recommendation: B – 100% vote; evidence level: 2b.

Discussion

EUS is a very important method for the diagnosis of solid pancreatic lesions, especially the adenocarcinoma. Besides its good accuracy for the diagnosis of pancreatic adenocarcinoma (higher than 85%),^[454647] it is also very useful for tissue sampling of other conditions. It is well accepted that EUS-FNA does not impact survival or alters the results of patient with resected pancreatic cancer.^[2833]

The use of new technologies, such as elastography and contrast-enhanced EUS, are complementary to the EUS imaging alone and can be useful to guide the puncture site, but available literature does not show relevant improvement in EUS-FNA diagnostic yield.^[363748]

When analyzing different aspects of the techniques for puncture of pancreatic solid lesions, such as the needle caliber or type, as well as the type of aspiration, there is no evidence in the literature that favors anyone in particular. The most important endpoint is the satisfactory tissue acquisition and a good pathology analysis to achieve the expected diagnostic yield.^[36394041424344]

Endoscopic ultrasonography-guided celiac plexus neurolysis

Celiac plexus neurolysis: Unilateral *versus* bilateral injection

The technique of injection (unilateral or bilateral) does not influence the efficacy of the celiac plexus EUS-guided neurolysis.^[495051]

Recommendation: B – 100% vote; evidence level: 1b.

Celiac plexus neurolysis *versus* celiac ganglia neurolysis

In patients with visible ganglia, celiac ganglia neurolysis (CGN) appears to lead to a better pain relief and is preferable compared to celiac plexus neurolysis (CPN).^[49525354]

Recommendation: B – 100% vote; evidence level: 1b.

Discussion

EUS-guided CPN (EUS-CPN) for pain relief is safe and effective, especially for patients with pancreatic cancer, while the results are modest for chronic pancreatitis.^[45] EUS-CPN complication rate is around 40%, and a self-limited hypotension is the most common one (20%).^[46]

It was suggested that bilateral injection would enhance the efficacy of celiac plexus EUS-guided neurolysis, but the studies available did not confirmed this suspicion.^[495051] The view of the celiac ganglia is a predictor of good response to neurolysis, and this structure can be identified by EUS in 63%–88% of patients. In these cases, the injection should be performed directly in the ganglia as the results show better pain relief.^[46525354]

Endoscopic ultrasonography for the evaluation of the incidental pancreatic cyst

When is endoscopic ultrasonography indicated for incidental pancreatic cyst?

EUS is indicated for the evaluation of the incidental pancreatic cysts identified and characterized preferably by MRI, with a protocol dedicated to the study of the gland, whose result is a pancreatic cyst of indeterminate morphology.^[475556]

Recommendation: C – 100% vote; evidence level: 4.

When is endoscopic ultrasonography-fine-needle aspiration indicated for incidental pancreatic cyst?

EUS-FNA is indicated in the incidental pancreatic cyst of indeterminate morphology when:

- Larger than 15 mm
- There is a suspicion of nodule or vegetation
- There are irregular or thickened internal walls
- There is an abrupt change of the caliber of the main pancreatic duct next to the cyst
- The main pancreatic duct measures between 5 and 9 mm.[⁴⁷⁵⁵⁵⁶]

Recommendation: C – 100% vote; evidence level: 4.

Notes:

- EUS-FNA is not indicated when cyst morphology on EUS is characteristic of a serous cystadenoma, regardless of its size
- The risk and benefit of EUS-FNA should be weighted against the presence of intervening vessels, main pancreatic duct, or more than 10 mm of normal parenchyma between the needle and lesion
- Antibiotic prophylaxis is indicated
- The aspirated material should be sent for dosage of carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA), amylase, glucose, and cytopathology, giving preference to CEA
- In the future, the molecular evaluation of the aspirated material will be available and will probably be useful for risk stratification of malignancy.

Discussion

Despite the relatively high incidence of pancreatic cysts in the population (3%–15%), the risk of malignancy is very low (<1%). Thus, the indication of any surgical procedure, which carries a morbidity of 20%–40%, should be balanced.[⁵⁶] EUS is important in the characterization of incidental pancreatic cysts in asymptomatic patients. The consensus panel found prudent to follow most of the recommendations of the International Association of Pancreatology[⁴⁷] concerning the indication of EUS-FNA of incidental pancreatic cysts. However, the consensus panel reduced the threshold for EUS-FNA in lesions measuring at least 15 mm. This is due to the recent studies on molecular analysis of the fluid of incidental pancreatic cysts showing mutations associated with high-grade dysplasia and even cancer in small branch-duct intraductal papillary mucinous neoplasms.[⁵⁷⁵⁸]

CONCLUSIONS

There is a low level of evidence to support the routine use of EUS-guided treatment of gastric varices. There is a high level of evidence to support the use of EUS for staging of nonsmall cell lung cancer. There is a high level of evidence to support EUS-guided biopsy of SELs as the safest method to sample SELs of the GI tract wall. There is a moderate level of evidence to support that the yield of EUS-guided tissue sampling of pancreatic solid lesions is not influenced by the needle shape, gauge, or employed aspiration technique. There is a moderate level of evidence to support that EUS-guided biliary drainage and percutaneous drainage present similar clinical success and adverse event rates. There is a moderate level of evidence to support that plastic and metallic stents are equivalent in the EUS-guided treatment of pancreatic pseudocyst. There is a high level of evidence to support that unilateral and bilateral injection techniques are equivalent for EUS-guided celiac neurolysis, and in patients with visible ganglia, CGN appears to lead to better results.

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Nil.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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