The Future of EUS-guided Biliary Drainage: How Much Potential Does It Have?

Anthony YB Teoh, M.D., Ph.D.
Department of Surgery, The Prince of Wales Hospital, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, China

Introduction

EUS-guided biliary drainage is currently an accepted option for drainage of the bile duct and the gallbladder when conventional therapy fails. However, whether such therapies hold the potential to replace conventional treatment modalities is controversial.

Body

EUS bile duct drainage is an accepted option for patients with failed ERCP. The procedure may reduce procedure-related adverse events over percutaneous biliary drainage and avoids the need of an external drainage tube. Furthermore, the procedure allows endoscopic access to the biliary tree if further intervention is needed. Similarly, EUS drainage of the gallbladder is also an accepted option of for treatment of acute cholecystitis in patients that are not candidates for cholecystectomy. The procedure has several advantages over percutaneous cholecystotomy and provides access to the gallbladder for advanced interventions. Studies are currently underway to investigate the potential of these modalities in replacing conventional treatment modalities.

Conclusion

The future of EUS-guided biliary drainage is entering an exciting period of expanded indications. Large scale randomized studies are required to confirm the efficacies in comparison to conventional therapies.

References

2. Lee TH, Choi JH, Park DH, Song TJ, Kim DU, Paik WH, Hwangbo Y, Lee SS, Seo DW, Lee SK, Kim MH. Similar Efficacies of


