

PANCREATIC CYSTS FROM DIAGNOSIS TO MANAGEMENT: CHALLENGES AND UPDATES

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Cystic pancreatic neoplasms are being found with increasing prevalence, especially in elderly asymptomatic individuals. The overall risk of malignancy is very low. It is associated with a significant degree of anxiety and further medical investigation due to concerns about malignancy. The increasing numbers of cases we are seeing is in part related to the increased awareness of their existence. Increased use of cross-sectional imaging (CT and MRI) had led to accidental discovery of many pancreatic cysts. Nonetheless, because of the known malignant potential of this diagnosis, their identification generates anxiety, need for subsequent imaging and sometimes invasive testing or surgery. In this presentation, we will discuss the different types of pancreatic cysts and the risk of developing pancreatic cancer in each of them. Also, we will discuss the current diagnostic modalities and management approach. The presentation will also shed light on ongoing research and clinical trials in improving the diagnostic yield that will help to treat patients better avoiding unnecessary surgery.

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