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IN BRIEF

HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA

Hepatocellular carcinoma, obesity and the *PNPLA3* I148M genetic variant

Burza and colleagues performed a matched, prospective, controlled, interventional trial to investigate the association of the *PNPLA3* I148M genetic variant with hepatocellular carcinoma in obese individuals. The study included a cohort of patients undergoing bariatric surgery (surgery group) or receiving conventional treatment (control group). A significantly higher incidence of hepatocellular carcinoma in individuals carrying the *PNPLA3* I148M genetic variant was found in the control group.

Original article Burza, M. A. *et al.* *PNPLA3* I148M (rs738409) genetic variant is associated with hepatocellular carcinoma in obese individuals. *Dig. Liver Dis.* doi:10.1016/j.dld.2012.05.006

PANCREATIC CANCER

Are pancreatic cysts a risk factor for pancreatic cancer?

A recent study investigated whether pancreatic cysts might be a risk factor for pancreatic cancer. The incidence and characteristics of pancreatic cysts found by MRI in patients with and without pancreatic cancer were examined. 116 patients with pancreatic cancer and 1,226 with nonpancreatic disease were included in the trial. Multivariate analysis revealed cyst presence to be a significant risk factor for pancreatic cancer, especially cysts >10 mm in diameter.

Original article Matsubara, S. *et al.* Incidental pancreatic cysts found by magnetic resonance imaging and their relationship with pancreatic cancer. *Pancreas* doi:10.1097/MPA.0b013e31824f5970

PANCREATIC CANCER

Distinguishing pancreatic adenocarcinoma from other pancreatic mass lesions

A meta-analysis was performed to assess the accuracy of contrast-enhanced endoscopic ultrasonography (EUS) for distinguishing pancreatic adenocarcinoma from other pancreatic masses. 12 studies were included in the analysis, involving 1,139 patients. The pooled sensitivity and specificity of contrast-enhanced EUS was 94% and 89%, respectively. The authors of the meta-analysis conclude that this technique could be useful in clinical practice.

Original article Gong, T.-T. *et al.* Contrast-enhanced EUS for differential diagnosis of pancreatic mass lesions: a meta-analysis. *Gastrointest. Endosc.* doi:10.1016/j.gie.2012.02.051

OBESITY

Promising short-term outcomes following a novel bariatric surgery procedure

Laparoscopic greater curvature plication (LGCP) is a new metabolic/bariatric surgery technique that reduces the gastric volume by placing at least two rows of nonabsorbable sutures on the greater gastric curvature. Fried *et al.* report the outcomes of LGCP in 224 patients with morbid obesity. Weight change was assessed at 6, 12 and 18 months. The results show that this procedure leads to significant weight loss and reduction in type 2 diabetes mellitus, with few complications.

Original article Fried, M. *et al.* Laparoscopic greater curvature plication (LGCP) for treatment of morbid obesity in a series of 244 patients. *Obes. Surg.* doi:10.1007/s11695-012-0684-2