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**Number: Su1141**

CONSENSUS ON DEFINITIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS OF POST ENDOSCOPY UPPER GASTROINTESTINAL CANCERS (PEUGIC): WORLD ENDOSCOPY ORGANIZATION DELPHI STUDY

Society: ASGE**Track:** Clinical Practice**Author(s) and Affiliation(s):**

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Background & aims: There has been several advances in the detection and resection of premalignant lesions of the upper gastrointestinal tract. However, benchmarks for key performance indicators are lacking. The majority of esophagogastroduodenoscopies (EGD) are diagnostic examinations and the focus should be on early detection of dysplastic or neoplastic lesions. When a diagnosis of upper gastrointestinal cancer follows an endoscopy that did not diagnose cancer it is termed post endoscopy upper gastrointestinal cancer (PEUGIC). There is lack of awareness, standardized definition, recognition and measurement for PEUGIC. It is vital for endoscopy providers to understand why PEUGIC occur so that interventions can be put in place to reduce their occurrence and improve endoscopy quality. We aimed to provide consensus-driven recommendations for uniform reporting and international adoption.

Methods: The World Endoscopy Organization Barrett's Esophagus Committee appointed experts to develop an evidence-based Delphi study. A working group of 7 members identified and formulated 19 statements, and 19 internationally recognized experts participated. We defined consensus as agreement by ≥80% of experts for each statement and used the Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluations tool to assess the quality of evidence and the strength of recommendations.

Results: Experts achieved consensus on statements related to: definition of PEUGIC (cancers diagnosed 6-36 months after a negative EGD); subcategories based on site (esophageal, gastric and non-ampullary duodenal cancer); timing from prior negative EGD (interval and non-interval); qualitative review of PEUGIC cases (10 statements) and quantitative assessment of PEUGIC rates (6 statements regarding its use as a performance measure when quality data is available at the endoscopy service level with the use of unadjusted 3 year rates of the entire cohort). Qualitative review of PEUGIC outlined the following: formal process to identify PEUGIC; root cause analysis; use of most plausible term; common language for categorization; classification; separate analysis for surveillance PEUGIC; datasets for index exam; endoscopist related benchmarks; clinical and pathology services data requirements; defining as avoidable or unavoidable for quality improvement initiatives. Experts achieved strong agreement of ≥80% for all statements in one round of voting.

Conclusions: We have developed evidence-based, consensus-driven statements on the definition, classification and measurement of PEUGIC. These recommendations we hope will facilitate global uniformity in the detection and analysis of PEUGIC.

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