WATER-ASSISTED SIGMOIDOSCOPY IN NHS BOWEL SCOPE SCREENING: THE WASH MULTICENTRE RANDOMISED CONTROLLED TRIAL

Introduction Bowel cancer is the UK’s 2nd most common cause of cancer death. To reduce this risk, the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme invites 55-year olds for sigmoidoscopy (Bowel Scope Screening-BSS). A national patient survey showed much higher procedural pain than anticipated, potentially impacting on compliance and screening effectiveness. Studies indicate that a new technique using water-assisted scope insertion (WAS) may minimise bowel distension, hence reduce pain and also increase polyp detection.

We aimed to assess the effect of WAS on procedural pain and adenomatous polyp detection, compared to CO2 assisted scope insertion. We aimed to perform a cost-effectiveness analysis of WAS, a discrete choice experiment (DCE) to ascertain patient preferences, and to survey trial endoscopists’ technique preference after the trial.

Methods We performed an RCT of 1123 people undergoing BSS, randomised 1:1 to WAS (for which the endoscopists received training) or CO2. The primary outcome was patient-reported moderate/severe pain. The key secondary outcome was adenoma detection rate (ADR).

Results We found no difference in patient-reported moderate/severe pain between WAS and CO2 (p=0.47; logistic regression; predictive marginal estimates 14% in WAS and 15% in CO2). Moderate/severe pain was significantly lower in both arms than in the previous national survey (p<0.01, chi-square).

ADR was significantly higher in the CO2 arm (p=0.03, logistic regression; odds ratio 1.45 (95% CI; 1.03, 2.04); predictive marginal estimates 11% in WAS and 15% in CO2). However, it remained above the minimum national performance standard in both arms and there was no statistical difference in mean number of adenomas nor overall polyp detection rate.

Conclusions In the context of enema-prepared unsedated screening sigmoidoscopies performed by screening-accredited endoscopists, no difference in patient-reported pain was seen when using either a CO2 or WAS intubation technique. There is no need for screening sigmoidoscopists to switch to a WAS technique. Caution should be given to monitoring ADR if WAS is used in enema-prepared sigmoidoscopies.

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MULTICENTRE PROSPECTIVE VALIDATION STUDY OF THE PADDINGTON INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL CHROMOENDOSCOPY SCORE (PICASSO) IN ULCERATIVE COLITIS

Introduction Mucosal healing (MH) is an important goal in the treatment of ulcerative colitis (UC). The newly published PICA Loader score characterises subtle mucosal and vascular changes and defines MH. We aimed to validate in real-life the PICA Loader score and assess its ability to predict relapse.

Cost-consequence analysis revealed a negligible difference between the two techniques. The DCE revealed that patients care more about the risk of missing an abnormality and risk of a serious complication than the level of pain experienced. Exit survey of trial endoscopists revealed 10 preferred WAS, one preferred CO2 and 4 were neutral.

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Abstract Figure 1 Correlation between endoscopic scores and histological scores
Methods Patients with UC were prospectively recruited from 11 international centres. Participating endoscopists experienced in IBD received training on PICaSSO before starting the study. The rectum and sigmoid were examined using iScan 1,2 & 3 (Pentax, Japan) and inflammatory activity was assessed using Mayo, UCEIS and PICaSSO. Biopsies were taken for histological assessment using Robarts Histological Index (RHI), Nancy, ECAP, Geboes and Villanacci. Follow up data was obtained at 12 months.

Results A total of 307 patients were recruited. The interobserver agreement for the PICaSSO score was 0.879 (95% CI 0.826 – 0.924). The PICaSSO total and PICaSSO mucosal scores strongly correlated with histology scores and was statistically better than MES and UCEIS as shown in figure 1. When using a PICaSSO total score of ≤3 the AUROC to predict MH by RHI (≤3 + absence of neutrophils) was 0.90 (95% CI 0.86 – 0.94) and when we compare the AUROC of Picasso vs Mayo p was =0.06. When using the Nancy score ≤1 the AUROC was 0.816 (95% CI 0.77 – 0.87). A Kaplan-Meier curve shows a significant favourable survival probability without relapse with a PICASSO score of ≤3 Likelihood ratio test=26.41, p<0.0000.

Conclusions This real-life validation study shows the electronic chromoendoscopy score, PICaSSO, can predict accurately histological healing and long-term remission and can be a useful tool in the management of UC.

05 BOUGIECAP DILATATION DEVICE: NOVEL ENDOSCOPIC METHOD FOR TREATMENT OF OESOPHAGEAL STRICTURES: RESULTS FROM A MULTICENTRE STUDY

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Introduction A novel dilatation device, BougieCap (Ovesco, Germany), allows both tactile and optic feedback of the dilatation procedure without the need for fluoroscopy. The aim of this study was to assess the safety and efficacy of this device in a prospective cohort of patients.

Methods Patients with benign oesophageal strictures and symptoms of dysphagia were recruited from 3 centres in the UK and Germany for planned dilatation with the BougieCap. The device is a single-use transparent conical cap which is fixed to the tip of the endoscope. Once in place, the endoscope is inserted and positioned in front of the stricture and by pushing forward and rotating with the endoscope, enables the conical cap to dilate the mucosa. The primary outcome measure was the technical success of dilatation. Secondary outcome measures were improvement in symptoms of dysphagia, assessed by the Dysphagia Handicap Index (DHI) before and 14 days after the procedure, and adverse events.

Results 104 patients with benign oesophageal strictures underwent BougieCap dilatation between February 2018 to September 2019. Aetiology of strictures were peptic 63%, radiation 15%, anastomotic 7%, caustic 6%, EoE 5%, post-ESD/EMR 4%. Mean diameter of strictures was 5 mm (±2.3). Bougienage was successful in 97%. In 3 cases, with a long narrow stricture, bougienage failed because of high resistance at the site of the stricture causing buckling of the endoscope in the pharynx. Symptoms of dysphagia improved after bougienage (53 points Day 0 v 21 points day 14, p<0.01). No severe adverse events were reported.

Conclusions Endoscopic treatment of benign strictures using the BougieCap is highly successful and safe. It enables direct visual and tactile control of the bougienage procedure with control of mucosal damage within the stricture area. This might help to adapt treatment more precisely to the stricture. Symptoms of dysphagia are improved in short-term follow-up.

06 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE USING CONVOLUTIONAL NEURAL NETWORKS FOR DETECTION OF EARLY BARRETT’S NEOPLASIA

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Initial results from THE PAIGE PROJECT Portsmouth’s Project on Artificial Intelligence in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

Introduction Endoscopic detection of early Barrett’s neoplasia remains very challenging, with significant inter-observer variation in identifying and assessing these lesions. Artificial intelligence is proposed to help with computer aided detection in this field and could have significant clinical and cost implications. We aim to develop and validate a deep learning (DL) algorithm using Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) for detection of Barrett’s neoplasia.

Methods We collected 132 high definition white light endoscopy images from 46 lesions of histologically confirmed Barrett’s neoplasia. These images were marked and annotated using specially designed software, and reviewed by two experts on advanced assessment and management of Barrett’s neoplasia. Another 119 images of non dysplastic Barrett’s were collected from 20 patients and used as control. Both dysplastic and non dysplastic images were divided into three datasets and used for training, validation and testing of CNN algorithm. We used SegNet segmentation architecture. Graphic processing unit used was GeForce RTX 2080 Ti. We collected metrics on processing speed,