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Predictive factors for early mortality after EUS-guided gastroenterostomy in malignant gastric outlet obstruction

Hyuk Lee, Kenneth H Park, Ulysses Rosas, Mohamad Othman El Helou, Jae Min Lee, Liliana Bancila, Laith H Jamil, Quin Liu, Rabindra R Watson, Srinivas Gaddam, Simon K Lo.

Affiliations below.

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Abstract:

Background and study aim: Endoscopic ultrasound-guided gastroenterostomy (EUS-GE) has recently emerged as a potential treatment option for malignant gastric outlet obstruction (mGOO), with a relatively long duration of patency and low rate of re-intervention. Its intrinsic risk for serious adverse events and high procedure cost mandates careful patient selection beyond the common safety profiles. This study aimed to assess for predictors of early post-EUS-GE mortality. Patients and methods: We conducted a retrospective analysis of all patients with unresectable mGOO who underwent EUS-GE. Predictive factors for post-operative 30-day mortality with crude and adjusted hazard ratios were examined using univariate and multivariate penalized likelihood Firth logistic regression analyses. Results: Technical and clinical success was achieved in 96.7% and 93.1% of the patients, respectively. The 30-day mortality rate after the procedure was 11.7%, and no procedural complications were observed. The 30-day mortality group had a significantly low rate of initial clinical success (66.7% vs. 96.2%, $p=0.007$). Univariate analysis identified significantly higher postoperative 30-day mortality in patients with poor baseline ECOG performance status scale (≥ 2) and ascites. The presence of grade 2 ascites was confirmed as an independent predictive factor in the multivariate analysis (adjusted hazard ratio 52.41, 95% confidence interval 1.55 to 1775.64, $p=0.024$). Conclusion: EUS-GE should be carefully considered for patients with ascites which was an independent predictor for early mortality after procedure in mGOO, especially those with grade 2 or higher level of ascites.

Corresponding Author:

Dr. Simon K Lo, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Division of Digestive Diseases, 8700 Beverly Blvd, 7511, 90048 Los Angeles, United States, Simon.Lo@cshs.org

Affiliations:

Hyuk Lee, Samsung Medical Center, Department of Medicine, Gangnam-gu, Korea (the Republic of)

Kenneth H Park, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Gastroenterology, Los Angeles, United States

Ulysses Rosas, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Gastroenterology, Los Angeles, United States

[...]

Simon K Lo, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Division of Digestive Diseases, Los Angeles, United States

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early mortality after procedure in mGOO, especially those with grade 2 or higher level of ascites.

Key words: Gastroenterostomy; Lumen Apposing Metal Stent; Gastric Outlet Obstruction; Malignancy; Early Mortality



Introduction

Malignant gastric outlet obstruction (mGOO) is caused by any gastroduodenal or advanced pancreaticobiliary cancer, leading to severe malnutrition and quality of life deterioration.[1,2] Surgical gastrojejunostomy (SGJ) and endoscopic duodenal stenting are two well-established palliative treatment modalities for this condition. While SGJ typically provides longer symptom palliation than duodenal stenting, it is associated with a higher surgery-related morbidity or mortality. Thus, treatment selection should be based on the patient's overall health, surgical risks, anticipated degree of recovery, and life expectancy after treatment.[3-8]

The recently introduced fully endoscopic creation of a gastrojejunal bypass, commonly referred to as endoscopic ultrasound-guided gastroenterostomy (EUS-GE), has been shown to result in more favorable short-term efficacy, longer duration of stent patency and lower reintervention rates than duodenal stenting.[9] It appears that EUS-GE may offer the therapeutic advantages of both duodenal stenting and SGJ.[10-17] Regarding the overall survival outcome after EUS-GE, a previous study reported a survival rate of 65.9% at the 6-month follow-up after EUS-GE, with the underlying malignancy being the primary cause of mortality. In another long-term analysis, 54.5% of patients with mGOO with clinical success after EUS-GE were deceased due to their primary cancer during a median follow-up of 162.5 days.[18,19] On the other hand, there are insufficient data on early mortality after this procedure. By identifying putative preoperative factors associated with early post-procedure demise, it is possible to select patients who will most likely benefit from EUS-GE.

The present study aimed to identify the preoperative clinical factors that would predict early post-EUS-GE mortality to minimize unnecessary EUS-GE procedures, given its cost and significant safety concern.

Patients and methods

Study design and patient selection

A retrospective analysis was conducted based on a prospectively collected database of patients who underwent EUS-GE with a lumen-opposing metal stent (LAMS) to treat symptomatic mGOO, where curative surgical resection was not feasible. The patients were diagnosed between October 2017 and October 2022 at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center (CA, USA). Patients lost to follow-up within 30 days after the procedure were excluded from the final analysis. This retrospective study was approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB No. 00000997), along with a waiver for written informed consent. This study complied with the ethical standards of the latest Declaration of Helsinki.

LAMS placement

This study used a 15-mm x 10-mm or 20-mm x 10-mm electrocautery-enhanced AXIOS LAMS (Boston Scientific, Marlborough, MA) to create the gastroenterostomy. All procedures were performed under general anesthesia by six experienced interventional endoscopists. Patients with coagulopathy (international normalized ratio [INR] ≥ 2), severe thrombocytopenia (platelet count $< 50,000$), distal small bowel obstruction, or grade 3 severe ascites were considered unfit for the procedure. Paracentesis was performed prior to the procedure on patients with a moderate

amount of ascites. The patients were administered intravenous antibiotics (levofloxacin 500 mg and metronidazole 500 mg) pre-procedurally. The first step of the procedure was esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD) to examine the stricture and place a 7F nasobiliary catheter (Wilson Cook Medical, Inc., USA) distal to the duodenal obstruction site. A large-channel linear array echoendoscope (GF-UCT 180; Olympus, Tokyo, Japan) was inserted into the stomach to observe the optimally located jejunal loop. Most patients had the mixture infused into the small bowel via a water-immersion technique, in which at least 500 mL of sterile water, methylene blue, and radiopaque contrast media were injected through a 7F nasobiliary catheter in the prone position. In a small number of patients during the early phase, varying volumes of the mixture were used.[18] Finally, the LAMS was deployed using the freehand approach. Successful gastroenterostomy was confirmed by observing the reflux of the methylene blue solution into the gastric lumen via the LAMS during endoscopy or by injecting a contrast agent from the stomach to the jejunum through the LAMS. The detailed standardized protocol for EUS-GE at this institution has been previously described.[18]

Data collection and outcome

Demographic, clinical, and post-procedural follow-up data were collected from electronic medical records of eligible patients. Covariates and demographic data for analysis included age, sex, race/ethnicity, weight, body mass index (BMI), Charlson comorbidity index (CCI), Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) performance status, type of primary disease, location of obstruction, administration of chemotherapy after procedure, staging, presence of peritoneal carcinomatosis or ascites, baseline laboratory findings including nutritional or systemic inflammatory

markers, and procedure-related variables (adverse events, American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Adverse Event (ASGE AE) grade,[20] American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) grade, perioperative biliary drainage). Routine pre-operative laboratory tests were performed immediately before the EUS-GE in all patients. The severity of ascites was categorized as grade 1 (a minimal layer of ascites in the gravity-dependent regions of the peritoneal and/or perihepatic cavity), grade 2 (the presence of fluid in the paracolic gutters), and grade 3 (sufficient ascites to displace the small bowel) based on the amount and distribution of ascites assessed by computed tomography of the abdomen and pelvis.[21,22] Follow-up data included technical and clinical success, occurrence of recurrent obstruction and re-intervention, death, cause of death, and duration of survival. The primary outcome was 30-day mortality following EUS-GE. Secondary outcomes included technical success rates, clinical success rates, procedure-related adverse events, recurrent obstruction and re-intervention, and overall survival.

Definitions

Technical success was defined as appropriate deployment of the LAMS in the correct position, as confirmed by endoscopy and/ fluoroscopy. The successful placement of a second LAMS immediately following initial failure was also considered a technical success when accomplished in the same session. Clinical success was defined the ability to tolerate a soft solid diet without symptoms 48-72 h after a technically successful EUS-GE. Oral food intake was assessed using the gastric outlet obstruction scoring system (GOOSS).[14] GOOSS assigns a score of 0 in case of no oral intake, 1 for only liquids, 2 for soft solids and 3 for low-residues or full diet, and currently is the most used score to assess for clinical symptoms of GOO and

improvement post intervention. Adverse events were defined as events that occurred during or after EUS-GE, determined to be related to the procedure. The severity of adverse events was classified according to the grading system proposed by the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE).[20]

Statistical analysis

The intention-to-treat (ITT) and per protocol (PP) methods were used in this analysis. The ITT analysis was based on the total cohort of patients, and the PP analysis was based on the group of patients with technically successful LAMS placement. Patient characteristics, procedural outcomes, survival outcome, and 30-day mortality were evaluated in the ITT population. Clinical success and re-intervention due to stent dysfunction were evaluated by the PP analysis.

Continuous variables were presented as mean (\pm standard deviation) or median (interquartile range). To compare 30-day survival and non-survival groups, categorical variables were analyzed using the Chi-square test or Fisher's exact test, while continuous variables were analyzed using the Mann-Whitney U test. Logistic regression analyses were conducted to elucidate the clinical factors associated with 30-day postprocedural mortality. To mitigate the bias associated with the small sample size, we employed Firth's penalized likelihood method, which offers a robust alternative to the traditional maximum likelihood logistic regression for analyzing rare events.[23,24] Univariable logistic regression analysis was conducted to examine the 30-day mortality or survival groups and the potential confounders, including age, sex, CCI score (0–2, ≥ 3), ECOG performance score (0–1, ≥ 2), American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) score (0–3, ≥ 4), staging, peritoneal carcinomatosis, ascites, further systemic treatment, and procedure-related adverse event. After univariate

analyses, the association between the primary outcome and the study group was adjusted for potential confounders in the multivariate logistic regression analysis. The lack of multicollinearity among the variables was established by assessing the variance inflation factor, which was less than 2 before inclusion in the multivariable model.[25] The results are presented as odds ratios (ORs) with 95% confidence intervals (CIs). All p-values were 2-sided, and significance was set at $p \leq 0.05$. Overall survival following EUS-GE was calculated from the time from the procedure to the time of death. If a patient was lost to follow-up or was alive at the end of the study, the last observation date was considered censored data using the Kaplan-Meier method. Statistical analyses were performed using SPSS software (version 27.0; IBM Corp.), SAS software (version 9.4; SAS Institute, Cary, NC, USA), and GraphPad Prism software (version 9.4.1; GraphPad Software Inc.).

Results

Of the 67 patients, 60 (34 males) with a median age of 69 (interquartile range 64–78) years, excluding two patients with previous surgery and five patients that were lost to follow-up within 30 days, were included in the final analysis. **Table 1** shows the demographic and baseline clinical characteristics of the patients. The most common etiology of malignancy causing gastric outlet obstruction was pancreatic cancer (70%), followed by biliary (10%), and duodenal cancers (8.3%). Baseline Gastric Outlet Obstruction Scoring System (GOOSS) score was as follows. Of the 60 patients, 47 (78.3%) had a score of 1, while the rest had a score of 0. Technical success was achieved in 96.7% of all patients, and clinical success was achieved in 93.1% of patients who demonstrated technical success. In our cohort, two cases of technical

failure were observed, both of which were related to stent misplacement, and an over-the-scope clip (OTSC) was used for closure in such cases. In one case of stent misplacement, additional treatment for obstruction was not performed, and in the other case, a duodenal stent was used. In an additional three patients, despite initial stent misplacement, second LAMS insertion attempts done immediately as rescue treatment established gastroenterostomy after closure of the puncture site. Among the cases that achieved technical success, eight patients (13.8%) underwent re-intervention for initial clinical failure (n=1) or recurrent obstruction (n=7) during the follow-up period. Percutaneous endoscopic gastrojejunostomy, stent unclogging, through-the-stent stenting, and balloon dilation were performed in five, one, one, and one patient, respectively. Fifty percent of these patients underwent re-intervention within 1 month after EUS-GE.

The overall median survival duration after EUS-GE was 85 days (**Supplementary material Figure 1**). A 30-day mortality was observed in seven patients (11.7%). **Table 2** summarizes the demographic and baseline clinical characteristics of the patients surviving less than, and longer than, 30-days. No significant differences in age, sex, race/ethnicity, and smoking and alcohol history were observed between the two groups. However, the 30-day mortality group showed a higher proportion of overweight patients than the 30-day survival group. Additionally, the proportion of patients with poor performance status, indicated by an ECOG score of 2 or higher was identified to be significant in the 30-day mortality group (71.4% vs. 24.5%, $p=0.011$). The two groups showed no difference in the type of etiological diseases or stricture site. The 30-day mortality group tended to present cases with typical findings of peritoneal carcinomatosis in computed tomography; however, no statistically significant difference was noted (42.9% vs. 15.1%, $p=0.074$). The 30-day mortality group had a

higher proportion of patients with ascites (85.7% vs. 24.5%, $p < 0.001$) than those in the 30-day survival group. The proportion of patients with grade 1 ascites was 57.1% and 22.6% in the 30-day mortality and 30-day survival groups, respectively. In particular, the two groups demonstrated significant differences in the proportion of patients with grade 2 ascites (1.9% in the 30-day survival group vs. 28.6% in the 30-day mortality group). Other laboratory results, such as the mean level of leukocyte, hemoglobin, blood urea nitrogen, prothrombin time-INR, and total bilirubin, were significantly different between the two groups. Representative cases from each group of patients with 30-day mortality and 30-day survival are displayed in **Figure 1**. The association between 30-day mortality and various parameters associated with procedural outcomes are shown in **Table 3**. Technical success was not significantly associated with 30-day mortality. The 30-day mortality group had a significantly low rate of initial clinical success (66.7% vs. 96.2%, $p = 0.007$). Other parameters, such as adverse event rates and severity grading, did not affect 30-day mortality. Additionally, the two groups showed no significant difference in the rate of re-intervention due to recurrent obstruction or initial clinical failure and rate of early re-intervention within 1 month after EUS-GE.

Table 4 displays the risk factors for predicting 30-day mortality in univariate and multivariate penalized likelihood Firth logistic regression models. At the time of EUS-GE, poor performance status with ECOG score of two or higher and presence of ascites were associated with early poor outcomes. Multivariate analysis showed that ascites is a significant, independent predictive factor of 30-day mortality at the time of EUS-GE. Grades 1 and 2 ascites with hazard ratios of 7.19 [95% CI 0.72, 71.43, $p = 0.11$] and 52.41 [95% CI 1.55, 1775.64, $p = 0.024$], respectively, suggested that ascites of grade 2 or higher increased the risk of 30-day mortality (**Figure 2**).

Discussion

This single-center retrospective study aimed to establish appropriate indications for the palliation of mGOO. We identified cases of early mortality that occurred after performing palliative EUS-GE and investigated clinical factors to predict early postoperative mortality. Importantly, classification by ascites severity was identified as an independent factor associated with early mortality after EUS-GE in patients with mGOO.

The progression of malnutrition and cachexia in mGOO is expected to prolong the hospitalization period, significantly worsen the quality of life, weaken the response to chemotherapy, and increase vulnerability to chemotherapy toxicity, and ultimately result in unfavorable overall survival. Hence, early intervention to relieve the symptoms of malnutrition and cachexia in mGOO is vital.[26] However, it has been reported that the life expectancy of these patients is very limited, raising the issue of which treatment modality is clinically appropriate and cost-effective.[27]

Prior to the introduction of EUS-GE, either SGJ or duodenal stent had been used to palliate unresectable mGOO after weighing differences in intrinsic advantages and disadvantages of each treatment method against patient's performance status and life expectancy. Of these two modalities, surgical bypass is generally favored if postoperative survival is expected for longer than 2 months and the performance status is good.[3,4,8] Now that EUS-GE is added as another minimally invasive treatment option, the management decision for mGOO has become more complex. Published data showed that EUS-GE was followed by lower postoperative morbidity and shorter length of hospital stay than SGJ, but with similar clinical success and recurrent

obstruction rates, suggesting that EUS-GE may replace SGJ in most circumstances. [28] Moreover, in comparison with the duodenal stent group with higher re-intervention rate, the EUS-GE group clearly showed more favorable stent patency at 3 months, presenting superior results in overall outcome in stent functions.[11,12] This superiority was further confirmed by the results of a recently reported multicenter randomized controlled trial.[9] Regarding safety concerns, no differences were found in the overall rate of adverse events between EUS-GE and duodenal stent, thus further negating a major perceived advantage of duodenal stenting over EUS-GE.

Nevertheless, there are real concerns over wide application of this new technique as complications, albeit rare, may require surgical revision. In addition, relative to duodenal stenting, it has a higher bleeding risk, longer procedure time, higher degree of technical difficulty, and steeper learning curve.[13,29-31] Hence, like SGJ, EUS-GE may only be considered appropriate when sufficient life expectancy is expected and in the hands of adequately trained physicians.

Palliative treatment for end-stage cancer is generally performed on fragile patients on systemic therapy, the decision to choose a therapeutic modality can be made only after a comprehensive assessment process. Consequently, it is necessary to consider performance status in mGOO, cancer burden, life expectancy, and expected effect of palliative chemotherapy.[27,32] If a very short life expectancy is anticipated, selecting the less invasive and less expensive luminal stenting seem appropriate despite its short duration of patency. The median time before stent dysfunction has been reported to be less than 2 months for duodenal stents, compared to more than 8 months for EUS-GE.[13] This showed that a duodenal stent can offer sufficient palliation in patients who are expected to have extremely early mortality, while EUS-GE may be

more cost-effective when life expectancy is expected to be more than 2 months. Thus, predicting postoperative early mortality is crucial for selecting the treatment method, and identifying factors associated with postoperative early mortality would be helpful.

Our study found that, of all the patients who underwent EUS-GE, 11.7% died within 30 days after the procedure. While this early mortality may be a natural progression of advanced-stage cancer, clinical deterioration due to direct or indirect effects of the procedure cannot be excluded. Our data revealed no association between the initial technical failure after EUS-GE and short-term mortality; however, clinical failure was associated with 30-day mortality. We examined the various clinical factors that predispose patients to early mortality. Not surprisingly, ECOG performance status and presence of ascites appeared significantly associated with 30-day mortality. However, after adjustment, only the presence of ascites was identified as an independent prognostic factor. Particularly, based on computed tomography-determined ascites grading, it was possible to be more precise and identify the main risk to be grade 2 or higher ascites. It should be stressed that our pre-procedural protocol mandated therapeutic paracentesis before attempting EUS-GE in patients with clinically significant ascites.

A large amount of ascites is considered a contraindication for EUS-GE, as it may distance the target bowel from the gastric wall, rendering the intestine to be excessively mobile for a safe puncture and potentially inoculate the ascitic fluid leading to bacterial peritonitis. It may also promote bowel separation and inhibit fixation of bowel loops after the procedure.[33] Large volume ascites (whether it is secondary to malnutrition, peritoneal carcinomatosis or mixed), may also indicate overall severity of disease and clinical condition leading to their overall earlier demise.

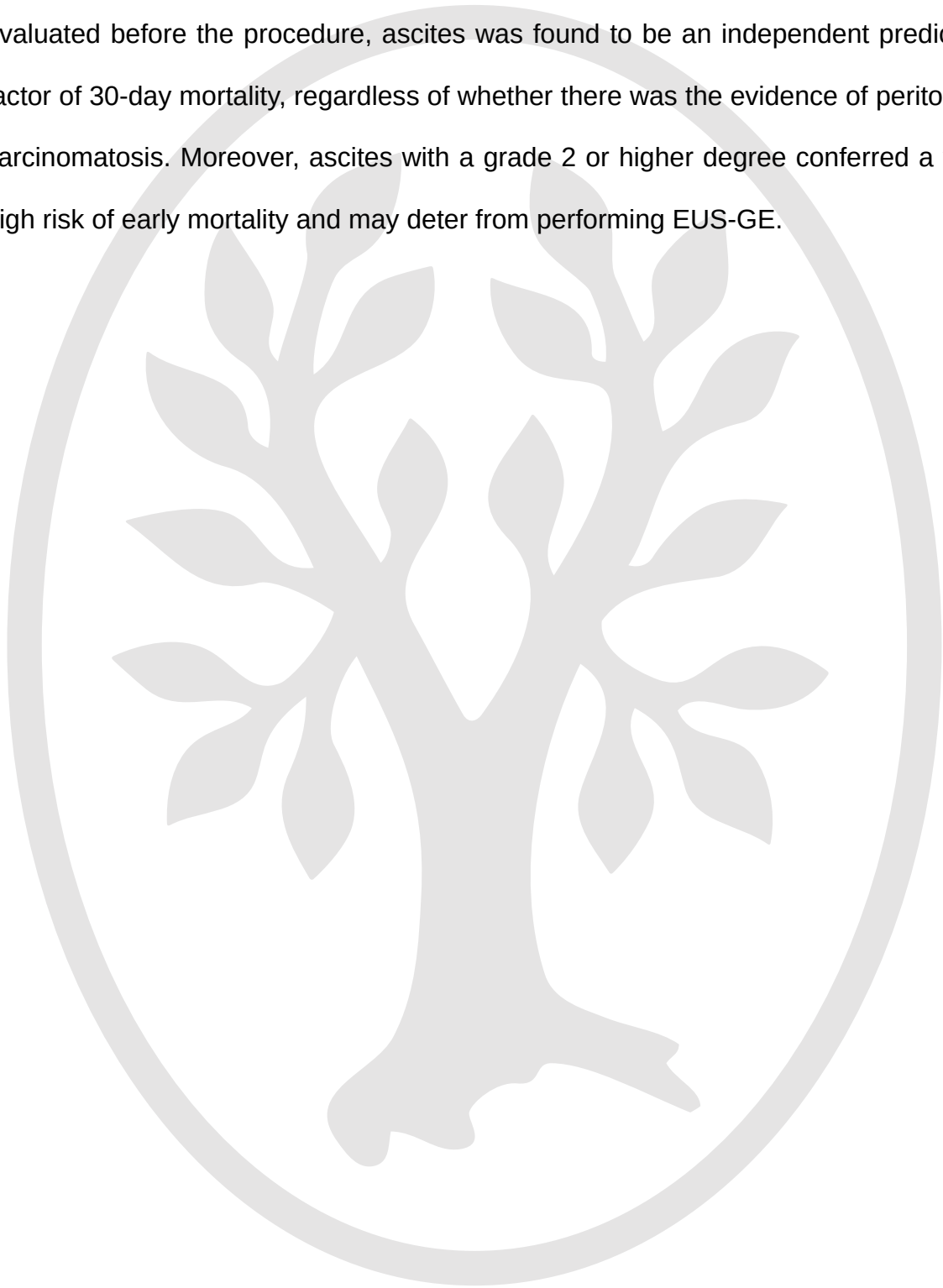
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There is a lack of data on how the volume of ascites may affect the results differently after the procedure. To date, two studies have reported on clinical outcomes after EUS-GE in ascites, with the first study presenting no difference in procedural outcomes even though there was a difference in median survival between the patient groups with and without ascites.[34] The second study revealed a higher rate of postoperative adverse events, such as peritonitis and worsening ascites in the patients with ascites. [35]

There are several valuable strengths to this study. First, the 30-day early mortality, which can offer further evidence for treatment indication, was set as the primary endpoint. As there are alternative treatments available, such as duodenal stent, that may be effective in the short term, an analysis of early mortality is essential to explore clinical factors in the choice of treatment modality based on remaining life expectancy. Second, the relationship between ascites and early mortality was analyzed by adjusting many confounding factors. Third, the results support that more objective ascites grading can be used as guidance in clinical practice. On the other hand, this study has several limitations. First, it was a single-center study. Second, the reliability of the analysis for confounding factors may be affected due to the small sample size. Third, as it was a retrospective study, the postoperative evaluation of ascites or systemic inflammatory condition was not performed. Thus, a prospective comparative trial of EUS-GE and duodenal self-expanding metal stent in the patient group with an expected short life expectancy and grade 2 or higher ascites is warranted in the future.

Conclusions

In conclusion, a 30-day mortality rate of 11.7% was observed in patients with unresectable mGOO who underwent EUS-GE. Among the factors that could be evaluated before the procedure, ascites was found to be an independent predictive factor of 30-day mortality, regardless of whether there was the evidence of peritoneal carcinomatosis. Moreover, ascites with a grade 2 or higher degree conferred a very high risk of early mortality and may deter from performing EUS-GE.



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All the other authors declare no competing interests.



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Table 1. Baseline demographic and clinical and characteristics at the time of EUS-GJ

	Patients (n=60)	%
Age, mean (SD), range, y	69.4 (10.8), 43–94	
Sex ratio M:F	1.31	
Race/Ethnicity (n, %)		
White	29	48.3
Black	6	10.0
Hispanic	10	16.7
Asian	14	23.3
Native	1	1.7
Primary disease (n, %)		
Pancreatic cancer	42	70.0
Biliary cancer	6	10.0
Duodenal cancer	5	8.3
Stomach cancer	1	1.7
Other origins	6	10.0

Abbreviations: SD, standard deviation

Table 2. Baseline clinical characteristics according to 30-day mortality

Variable	30-day survivor (n=53)	30-day mortality (n=7)	p value
Age			
Mean (SD), years	69.1 (11.1)	71.1 (8.7)	.65
≥ 70 years (n, %)	25, 47.2	3, 42.9	.91
Sex (n, %)			
Male	30, 56.6	4, 57.1	.98
Race / Ethnicity (n, %)			
White	25, 47.2	4, 57.1	.57
Black	5, 9.4	1, 14.3	
Hispanic	8, 15.1	2, 28.6	
Asian	14, 26.4	0	
Native	1, 1.9	0	
BMI			
Underweight (n, %)	11, 20.8	1, 14.3	.001
Normal (n, %)	30, 56.6	0	
Overweight (n, %)	12, 22.6	6, 85.7	
Smoking (n, %)			
Never	35, 66.0	5, 71.4	.81
Former	15, 28.3	2, 28.6	
Current	3, 5.7	0	
Alcohol (n, %)			
Yes	9, 17.0	1, 14.3	.86
Charlson comorbidity index			
Mild (n, %)	8, 15.1	0	.24
Moderate (n, %)	8, 15.1	0	
Severe (n, %)	37, 69.8	7, 100	
ECOG performance status			
ECOG ≥2 (n, %)	13, 24.5	5, 71.4	.011

ASA score			
ASA \geq 4 (n, %)	5, 9.4	1, 14.3	.69
Primary disease (n, %)			
Pancreatic cancer	38, 71.7	4, 57.1	.41
Biliary cancer	5, 9.4	1, 14.3	
Duodenal cancer	5, 9.4	0	
Stomach cancer	1, 1.9	0	
Other origin	4, 7.5	2, 28.6	
Location of stricture (n, %)			
Distal stomach	1, 1.9	0	.53
Bulb	12, 22.6	3, 42.9	
Second	23, 43.4	3, 42.9	
Third / Fourth	17, 32.1	1, 14.3	
Staging (n, %)			
Locally advanced	20, 37.7	1, 14.3	.22
Metastatic	33, 62.3	6, 85.7	
Peritoneal carcinomatosis (n, %)	8, 15.1	3, 42.9	.074
Ascites (n, %)			
None	40, 75.5	1, 14.3	<.001
Grade 1	12, 22.6	4, 57.1	
Grade 2	1, 1.9	2, 28.6	
Laboratory results, Mean (SD)			
Leukocyte ($\times 10^9/L$)	8.2 (5.9)	15.6 (10.0)	.007
Hemoglobin (g/dL)	10.7 (1.9)	9.1 (1.1)	.03
Platelet ($\times 10^9/L$)	247.3 (113.2)	268.4 (111.8)	.64
BUN (mg/dL)	15.8 (10.4)	35.6 (27.6)	.001
Creatinine (mg/dL)	0.9 (0.6)	1.3 (0.8)	.19
AST (U/L)	49.5 (69.5)	87.9 (100.0)	.20
ALT (U/L)	59.1 (98.9)	66.3 (74.6)	.85
PT-INR	1.17 (0.15)	1.30 (0.16)	.045

Total bilirubin (mg/dL)	1.0 (1.2)	1.9 (0.4)	.001
Albumin (g/dL)	3.2 (0.7)	2.8 (0.6)	.17
NLR ratio	7.7 (8.3)	15.2 (11.5)	.036
PLR ratio	281.7 (141.5)	327.5 (141.4)	.42

Abbreviations: BMI, body mass index; ECOG, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group; ASA, American Society of Anesthesiologists; BUN, blood urea nitrogen; ALT, alanine aminotransferase; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; PT-INR, prothrombin time / international normalized ratio; SD, standard deviation; NLR, neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio; PLR, platelet-to-lymphocyte ratio



Table 3. Procedural outcomes according to 30-day mortality

Variable	30-day survival (n=53)	30-day mortality (n=7)	p value
Technical success (n, %)	52, 98.1	6, 85.7	.09
Clinical success (n, %) *	50, 96.2	4, 66.7	.007
GOOSS, Mean (SD) *			
Baseline	0.81 (0.40)	0.57 (0.54)	.43
Post-treatment	2.21 (0.67)	1.57 (1.13)	.08
Perioperative biliary drainage (n, %)	14, 26.4	2, 28.6	.90
Adverse event (n, %)	7, 13.2	1, 14.3	.92
Perforation due to mis deployment	3, 5.7	1, 14.3	
Minor bleeding	3, 5.7	0	
Pancreatitis	1, 1.9		
ASGE AE grade (n, %)			
I	1, 1.9	0	
II	2, 3.8	0	
IIIa	3, 5.7	1, 14.3	.52
IIIb	1, 1.9	0	
Postoperative chemotherapy (n, %)	36, 67.9	4, 57.1	.57
Re-intervention (n, %) *			
Overall	7, 13.5	1, 16.7	.83
Within 30 days	3, 5.8	1, 16.7	.36

* Results from per-protocol analysis

Abbreviations: GOOSS, gastric outlet obstruction scoring system; ASGE, American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy; AE, adverse event; SD, standard deviation

Table 4. Univariable and multivariable penalized likelihood Firth logistic regression models that examined selected clinical factors as the predictors of 30-day mortality after endoscopic ultrasound-guided gastroenterostomy in malignant gastric outlet obstruction

Covariate	Univariate analysis				Multivariate analysis					
	cHR	95% CI		p value	aHR	95% CI		p value	VIF	
		Lower	Upper			Lower	Upper			
Age	1.02	0.95	1.10	.53						
Sex	Male	1.32	0.29	6.12	.72					
CCI	Severe	7.69	0.38	153.90	.18					
ECOG score	≥2	10.00	1.78	56.15	.0089	6.62	0.95	46.04	.056	1.14
ASA score	≥4	4.00	0.60	26.69	.15					
Staging	Metastatic	4.38	0.50	38.26	.18					
Peritoneal carcinomatosis		3.30	0.66	16.63	.15					
Ascites	Grade 1	12.91	1.38	120.62	.021	7.19	0.72	71.43	.11	1.16
	Grade 2	45.01	1.71	1186.18	.018	52.41	1.55	1775.64	.024	1.02
Adverse event		1.09	0.12	10.24	.94					
Further systemic therapy		2.25	0.45	10.14	.29					

Abbreviations: cHR, crude hazard ratio; aHR, adjusted hazard ratio; CI, confidence interval; CCI, Charlson comorbidity index; ECOG, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group; ASA, American Society of Anesthesiologists; VIF, variance inflation factor

Figure legends

Figure 1. Representative cases from each group of patients with 30-day mortality (A, B) and 30-day survival (C, D)

A 72-year-old male patient with gastric outlet obstruction due to invasion of the duodenal bulb by pancreatic cancer. This patient presented with severe grade of Charlson comorbidity index, accompanied by moderate-degree ascites. (A) A coronal image of the dilated stomach caused by stricture at the duodenal bulb on computed tomography scan. (B) Target jejunal limb identified under EUS.

A 43-year-old male patient with obstruction of duodenal 4th portion by pancreatic cancer. No ascites was observed in this patient, and he had moderate grade of Charlson comorbidity index. (C) Coronal view of CT scan of the abdomen and pelvis showing marked dilatation of the proximal part of the duodenum and the entire stomach. (D) EUS showing distended fluid-filled proximal jejunal limb.

Figure 2. Kaplan-Meier curve for 30-day survival according to severity of ascites in patients with EUS-GE

The 30-day survival was more favorable in patients without ascites than in those with ascites, and was particularly unfavorable in those with grade 2 ascites ($p < 0.001$)

Supplementary Figure 1. Overall survival after EUS-GE in patients with malignant gastric outlet obstruction

Acronyms and Abbreviations:

malignant gastric outlet obstruction (mGOO); surgical gastrojejunostomy (SGJ); self-expanding metal stents (SEMS); endoscopic ultrasound guided gastroenterostomy (EUS-GE); gastric outlet obstruction scoring system (GOOSS); adverse events (AEs); American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) grade; lumen-apposing metal stent (LAMS); American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE); intention-to-treat (ITT); per protocol (PP); hazard ratio (HR); confidence interval (CI); over-the-scope clip (OTSC); blood urea nitrogen (BUN); alanine aminotransferase (ALT); aspartate aminotransferase (AST); prothrombin time / international normalized ratio (PT-INR); SD, standard deviation (SD)







