# World Journal of *Gastrointestinal Surgery*

World J Gastrointest Surg 2022 March 27; 14(3): 211-270





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Demirli Atici S. Kamer E



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### Monthly Volume 14 Number 3 March 27, 2022

### **ABOUT COVER**

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WJGS mainly publishes articles reporting research results and findings obtained in the field of gastrointestinal surgery and covering a wide range of topics including biliary tract surgical procedures, biliopancreatic diversion, colectomy, esophagectomy, esophagostomy, pancreas transplantation, and pancreatectomy, etc.

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### **RESPONSIBLE EDITORS FOR THIS ISSUE**

Production Editor: Rui-Rui Wu; Production Department Director: Xiang Li; Editorial Office Director: Ya-Juan Ma.

### **NAME OF JOURNAL**

World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery

ISSN 1948-9366 (online)

### **LAUNCH DATE**

November 30, 2009

### **FREQUENCY**

Monthly

### **EDITORS-IN-CHIEF**

Peter Schemmer

### **EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS**

https://www.wjgnet.com/1948-9366/editorialboard.htm

### **PUBLICATION DATE**

March 27, 2022

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### ARTICLE PROCESSING CHARGE

https://www.wignet.com/bpg/gerinfo/242

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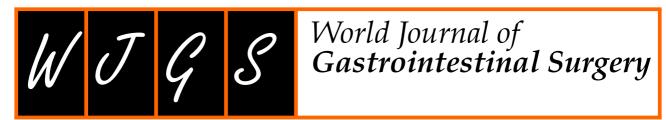
https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/GerInfo/239

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https://www.f6publishing.com

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World J Gastrointest Surg 2022 March 27; 14(3): 268-270

ISSN 1948-9366 (online) DOI: 10.4240/wjgs.v14.i3.268

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Is it sufficient to evaluate only preoperative systemic inflammatory biomarkers to predict postoperative complications after pancreaticoduodenectomy?

Semra Demirli Atici, Erdinc Kamer

Specialty type: Gastroenterology and hepatology

Provenance and peer review:

Invited article; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

### Peer-review report's scientific quality classification

Grade A (Excellent): 0 Grade B (Very good): B, B Grade C (Good): 0 Grade D (Fair): 0 Grade E (Poor): 0

P-Reviewer: Shah OJ, India; Xu X, China

Received: November 21, 2021 Peer-review started: November 21,

First decision: December 27, 2021 Revised: January 7, 2022

Accepted: March 6, 2022

Article in press: March 6, 2022 Published online: March 27, 2022

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### Abstract

Postoperative morbidity and mortality rates are still very high among patients undergoing pancreaticoduodenectomy (PD). However, mortality rates secondary to morbidities that are detected early and well-managed postoperatively are lower among patients undergoing PD. Since early detection of complications plays a very important role in the management of these patients, many ongoing studies are being conducted on this subject. Recent endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography and biliary drainage history of the patient study group is important for comparison of C-reactive protein (CRP), an inflammatory parameter evaluated in the retrospective study by Coppola et al published in the World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery and titled "Utility of preoperative systemic inflammatory biomarkers in predicting postoperative complications after pancreaticoduodenectomy: Literature review and single center experience". Therefore, it may be more appropriate to compare CRP values in randomized patients.

**Key Words:** Pancreaticoduodenectomy; Biliary drainage; Complications; C-reactive protein; CRP; Postoperative pancreatic fistula; Preoperative inflammatory markers

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**Core Tip:** Predicting the complications that may develop after pancreaticoduodenectomy is very important in the management of patients. Preoperative and intraoperative scoring of patients with the combination of many parameters, such as pancreatic structure, pancreatic duct diameter, preoperative biliary drainage history and laboratory parameters, can guide the estimation of postoperative morbidity and management. Inflammatory biomarkers are easily affected by preoperative treatment. In order to discuss such situations, we think that it would be more appropriate to prospectively randomize patients in whom dynamic changes of inflammatory parameters can be observed with reported risk factors, including not only C-reactive protein value but also other inflammatory parameters, rather than these preoperative values.

Citation: Demirli Atici S, Kamer E. Is it sufficient to evaluate only preoperative systemic inflammatory biomarkers to predict postoperative complications after pancreaticoduodenectomy? World J Gastrointest Surg 2022; 14(3): 268-270

**URL:** https://www.wjgnet.com/1948-9366/full/v14/i3/268.htm

**DOI:** https://dx.doi.org/10.4240/wjgs.v14.i3.268

### TO THE EDITOR

Coppola et al[1] recently published a retrospective study on the role of preoperative inflammatory markers to detect the predictive efficiency of postoperative morbidity and mortality in pancreaticoduodenectomy (PD) patients.

Most patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer undergo preoperative endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) for diagnostic purposes. Preoperative biliary drainage (PBD) can be performed in addition to ERCP in these patients, who may also present with the complaint of obstructive jaundice[2].

PBD itself, duration of the PBD and the ERCP procedure can each increase the inflammatory response [3,4]. Coppola et al[1] found that preoperative C-reactive protein (CRP) level of > 8.81 mg/dL was a high-risk factor for general complications and abdominal collection, which was associated with the inflammatory parameters examined prior to PD operations. Unfortunately, the authors did not report the number of PBD procedures performed on the individual patients included in their study, nor did they provide information on the duration of time before the ERCP procedure was performed for any. This missing information may preclude our ability to make conclusions on the effectiveness of the baseline CRP value, since the recent history of ERCP and the history of PBD are unknown for the study's patients. A history of PBD will cause an increased inflammatory response. In addition, increased postoperative complication rates have been demonstrated in relation to a history of PBD and duration of biliary drainage. Prospective randomized controlled trials would be more instructive in determining the efficacy of preoperative inflammatory markers and their importance in the rates of postoperative complications due to PD.

### **FOOTNOTES**

Author contributions: Demirli Atici S and Kamer E wrote the manuscript; Kamer E reviewed and supervised the manuscript preparation; Both authors read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

**Conflict-of-interest statement:** The authors declare having no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship and/or publication of this article.

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S-Editor: Wu YXJ



L-Editor: A P-Editor: Wu YXJ

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