

# World Journal of *Gastroenterology*

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**ABOUT COVER**

Editorial Board Member of *World Journal of Gastroenterology*, Dr. Ki Mun Kang is a Distinguished Professor at the Gyeongsang National University College of Medicine (Jinju, South Korea). Having received his Bachelor's degree from the College of Medicine of Chosun University in 1990, Dr. Kang undertook his postgraduate training, first at the Catholic College of Medicine, receiving his Master's degree in 1996, and then at Catholic University, receiving his PhD in 2004. He became Assistant Professor in Radiation Oncology at Gyeongsang National University in 2001 and has held the position since. His ongoing research interests include various aspects of immuno-radiobiology for GI and prostate cancers. Currently, he serves as President of the Department of Radiation Oncology, College of Medicine, Gyeongsang National University with Clinical Radiation Oncology and President of the Department of Radiation Oncology, Gyeongsang National University Changwon Hospital. (L-Editor: Filipodia)

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## Retrospective Study

# Older age, longer procedures and tandem endoscopic-ultrasound as risk factors for post-endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography bacteremia

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## Abstract

### BACKGROUND

Clinically significant post-endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) bacteremia (PEB) occurs in up to 5% of cases, while antibiotic prophylaxis is recommended only when an ERCP is unlikely to achieve complete biliary drainage. However, the current recommendations may not cover all potential risk factors for PEB.

### AIM

To identify novel risk factors for PEB and evaluate appropriateness of antibiotic prophylaxis.

### METHODS

A retrospective study of 1082 ERCP procedures performed between January 2012 - December 2013 in a single tertiary medical center. Data collection included: Demographic and clinical characteristics such as pre and post procedure antibiotic treatment and bacterial blood cultures. Exclusion criteria were: (1) Age < 18 years; (2) Positive bacterial blood culture before ERCP; (3) Scheduled antibiotic treatment prior to ERCP; (4) Hospitalization longer than 14 d before ERCP; and (5) missing critical data. Stepwise Logistic Regression analysis and Decision Tree

None

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algorithms were used for prediction modeling of PEB.

## RESULTS

A total of 626 ERCPs performed in 434 patients were included. Mean age 66.49 ± 15.4 years and 46.5% were males. PEB prevalence was 3.7%. Antibiotic prophylaxis was administered in 139/626 (22.2%) cases but was indicated according to the guidelines only in 44/626 (7%) cases. In all the PEB cases, prophylaxis was deemed not indicated. A stepwise logistic regression [receiver operating characteristic (ROC), 0.766], identified 3 variables as independent risk factors for PEB: Age at ERCP ≥ 75 years (OR, 3.780, 95%CI: 1.519-9.408,  $P = 0.004$ ); Tandem EUS/ERCP with fine needle aspiration (FNA) (OR, 14.528, 95%CI: 3.571-59.095,  $P < 0.001$ ); ERCP duration longer than 60 min (OR, 5.396, 95%CI: 1.86-15.656,  $P = 0.002$ ). In a decision tree model (ROC, 0.778) the probability for PEB without any risk factors was 1% regardless of prophylaxis administration.

## CONCLUSION

The prevalence of PEB in our study is similar to previous reports, despite the fact that antibiotic prophylaxis was administered more readily than recommended. ERCP duration longer than 60 min, tandem EUS-ERCP with FNA and age above 75 years are significant risk factors for PEB. These factors should be further evaluated as indications for prophylactic antibiotic treatment before ERCP.

**Key Words:** Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography; Bacteremia; Tandem-procedures; Fine needle aspiration; Antibiotic prophylaxis; Biliary drainage

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**Core Tip:** Clinically significant post-endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) bacteremia (PEB) occurs in up to 5% of cases, while antibiotic prophylaxis is recommended when an ERCP is unlikely to achieve complete biliary drainage. Our aim was to identify novel risk factors for PEB and evaluate appropriateness of antibiotic prophylaxis. This retrospective cohort study included 626 ERCPs while PEB prevalence was 3.7%. Antibiotic prophylaxis was administered in 22.2% of cases but was indicated in 7%. Independent risk factors for PEB were: Age ≥ 75 years, Tandem-EUS/ERCP with FNA and ERCP duration ≥ 60 min ( $P < 0.005$ ). These novel risk factors should be further evaluated as indications for prophylactic antibiotic treatment before ERCP.

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## INTRODUCTION

Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) is currently the method of choice for the treatment of biliary and pancreatic duct obstruction. However, serious post-procedural complications can occur. The most common complication is post-ERCP pancreatitis (1.6%-15.7%) followed by infectious complications (*i.e.*, clinically significant bacteremia) such as cholangitis and sepsis (3%-5%)<sup>[1,2]</sup>. The necessity of pre-ERCP antibiotic prophylaxis is controversial. According to ASGE recommendations in 2015<sup>[1]</sup>, antibiotic prophylaxis was not recommended when an ERCP was likely to achieve complete biliary drainage, based on high quality evidence. Administration of antibiotic prophylaxis before ERCP was recommended in liver transplantation recipients or patients with known or suspected biliary obstruction. It was recommended that antibiotics be continued after the procedure if biliary drainage was incomplete. This recommendation was recognized as moderate quality of evidence. The recommendations do not address specific populations or procedure-related factors

that require specific management. In the nationwide population-based cohort study of the Swedish Registry of Gallstone Surgery and ERCP (GallRiks) administration of prophylactic antibiotics led to a 26% relative risk reduction and 2.6% absolute risk reduction of post-ERCP adverse events<sup>[3]</sup>. The beneficial effect was most prominent among patients with obstructive jaundice (32% relative risk reduction and 3.8% absolute risk reduction in post-ERCP complications).

In a Cochrane systematic review of 9 randomized clinical trials (1573 patients), prophylactic antibiotics reduced post-ERCP bacteremia, septicemia and acute cholangitis, but the effect of antibiotics was less prominent in the subgroup of patients with biliary obstruction relieved during the first ERCP<sup>[4]</sup>.

The primary objective of this study was to evaluate possible risk factors for post-ERCP bacteremia (PEB). Secondary objectives were: Evaluation of PEB prevalence and to assess "real-life" practices of antibiotic administration and their competency to ASGE guidelines.

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## MATERIALS AND METHODS

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### **Study design and population**

A total of 1082 ERCPs were performed between January 2012 - December 2013 in a single referral center. All ERCPs were performed by one of five certified gastroenterologists with more than 5-years' experience in advanced endoscopy in a single dedicated room. (In only two cases (0.4%) the name of the endoscopist was not documented). Demographic and clinical characteristics including indication, complications, pre and post procedure antibiotic treatment and bacterial blood cultures were collected and documented manually from patient's records. Exclusion criteria were: (1) Age < 18 years; (2) Positive bacterial blood culture before ERCP; (3) Scheduled antibiotic treatment prior to ERCP; (4) Hospitalization longer than 14 days before ERCP; and (5) Missing critical data (mainly medical charts of documented antibiotic treatment). The study was approved by the local Institutional Review Board (IRB No: 0598-13-TLV), data was anonymous and informed consent was waived.

### **Variables definition**

Native papilla - Patients who previously underwent ERCP with papillotomy or pre-cut were considered "experienced patients" as opposed to patients with "native papilla".

Obstructive malignancy - Bile duct compression by an abdominal tumor or metastases (*i.e.*, pancreatic origin, cholangiocarcinoma, liver metastases *etc.*). Malignancy without abdominal involvement was not recorded (for example breast cancer).

"Naïve obstructive malignancy" - Patients who had their first ERCP for the indication of obstructive jaundice due to compressive malignancy were labeled as "Naïve obstructive malignancy".

Antibiotic prophylaxis - antibiotic prophylaxis was defined as a single dosage of antibiotic drug given in the window period of 1 h before ERCP and up to the end of the procedure. If the procedure was ambulatory, the decision whether or not to give prophylaxis was made according to the endoscopist discretion. If the procedure was performed during hospitalization the decision was made by the treating physician in the ward.

Tandem procedures - if an endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) was preformed just prior to the ERCP (in the same room, by the same physician and under the same anesthesia).

ERCP duration - the procedure duration was calculated as the time interval between the first documented picture (papilla of Vater) and last picture (final cholangiography). If tandem procedures were performed, only the ERCP duration was calculated.

Clinically significant PEB - bacterial blood cultures were drawn according to clinical indication (fever, systemic inflammatory response, cholangitis, *etc.*). PEB was defined as a positive bacterial blood culture within 7 d of ERCP date. Bacterial species and antibiotic resistance were documented.

Appropriateness of antibiotic prophylaxis - a gastroenterology specialist from the advanced endoscopy unit, who did not participate in the ERCPs included and was blinded to the outcome following the ERCPs, reviewed all the cases, and ranked the appropriateness of antibiotic prophylaxis according to the ASGE guidelines. There were 3 categories: (1) Prophylaxis was clearly indicated; (2) Prophylaxis was equivocal but was appropriate in the specific setting; and (3) Prophylaxis was not indicated.

### Statistical analysis

All statistical analyses were performed using MATLAB (Mathwork Inc. version 2015b) and SPSS version 23.0 for Windows (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, United State). Continuous variables are presented as means  $\pm$  SD, while categorical variables are presented in percentage. Univariate analyses were used for the comparison of variable's distribution between the study groups. To test differences in continuous variables between two groups the independent samples *t*-test (for normally distributed variables) or the Mann-Whitney *U* test (if non-parametric tests were required) were performed. To test the differences in categorical variables the Pearson  $\chi^2$ -Square test was performed,  $P < 0.05$  was considered statistically significant for all analyses. We used stepwise Logistic Regression analysis with entry probability of 0.2 and Decision Tree algorithms with minimum leaf of 50 cases, for prediction modeling of bacteremia. The statistical methods of the study were reviewed by Leshno M, MD, from the Faculty of Management, Tel-Aviv University, Israel.

## RESULTS

### Study population

A total of 1082 consecutive ERCPs were analyzed and 456 were excluded (Figure 1). Thus, a total of 626 ERCPs performed in 434 patients were included. In 84 cases (13.4%), bacterial blood cultures were drawn based on clinical suspicion. Positive cultures were documented in 23/84 cases (27.4%), thus the rate of clinically significant PEB was 23/626 (3.7%).

Demographics and procedure associated data is shown in Table 1. Mean age at ERCP was  $66.49 \pm 15.4$  years with 46.5% being male. Patient's characteristics were comparable between the PEB and non-PEB groups (Table 1). The most prevalent indication for ERCP in both groups was choledocholithiasis (30.4% and 32.2% for PEB and non-PEB groups respectively,  $P = \text{NS}$ ) followed by elective stent replacement (26.1% and 24.9%, respectively,  $P = \text{NS}$ ). This was a first ERCP intervention (native papilla) in 60.9% of the PEB cases and 44.9% of the non-PEB cases ( $P = \text{NS}$ ). ERCP duration was significantly longer among the PEB group compared to the non-PEB group ( $40.87 \pm 42.7$  vs  $28.64 \pm 24.3$  min, respectively,  $P = 0.02$ ). The prevalence of tandem procedures (EUS followed immediately by ERCP) was significantly higher among the PEB group [5 (21.7%) vs 37 (6.1%), respectively,  $P = 0.003$ ]. In the cases of tandem EUS/ERCP, fine needle aspiration (FNA) from a solid mass was performed in 9/37 cases of the non-PEB group and 4/5 cases of the PEB group (24.3% vs 80%,  $P = 0.01$ ). Intra ductal ultrasound (IDUS) was used in 2 cases and celiac block was performed in 1 case (all 3 cases were in the non-PEB group). The utilization of sphincterotomy, pre-cut or through the scope (TTS)-dilation was equally prevalent between the groups as well as the use of pancreatic stent. The use of naso-biliary drainage is very rare in our institute and was not documented. There was no difference in the distribution of ERCPs among five operators between the PEB and non-PEB groups (respectively: #1: 26.1% vs 28.4%, #2: 39.1% vs 31.7%, #3: 17.4% vs 15.8%, #4: 13.0% vs 19.6%, #5: 4.3% vs 4.3%, unknown: 0% vs 0.4%,  $P = 0.985$ ). Blood tests performed up to 72 h before ERCP were available for a minority of cases and are elaborated in Supplementary table 1.

### Microbial data

There were 23 cases of Bacteremia: 11 cases (1.8%) were of the *Enterobacteriaceae* family (*E.coli* and *Klebsiella spp.*), 8 cases (1.3%) were extended spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL)-producing *Enterobacteriaceae*, 2 cases (0.3%) were *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and the last 2 cases (0.3%) were *Acinetobacter baumannii* (Figure 2A). Seventy percent of the positive cultures were drawn during the three days following the ERCP procedure and 21.7% up to the fifth day, 8.9% were drawn on days 6-7 (Figure 2B).

To rule out other causes for bacteremia, invasive procedures such as percutaneous trans-hepatic drainage (PTD), cholecystostomy or surgery were documented (time interval- 7 days before the procedure and up to the day of bacterial culture collection). Pre-ERCP invasive procedure was not performed in any of the PEB cases. In the non-PEB group, 8 cases (1.3%) had pre-ERCP PTD, cholecystostomy was performed in 1 case (0.2%) and surgery in 12 cases (2%). Invasive procedures post-ERCP were documented in 2 cases (8.7%) from the PEB group, both were PTD insertion, and both were diagnosed with *Acinetobacter* bacteremia. There were 11 cases of invasive post-ERCP procedures in the non-PEB group (1.9%), with PTD in 4 cases (0.7%), and surgery in 7 cases (1.2%).

Table 1 Patients' and procedures' characteristics

	All ERCPs (n = 626)	PEB (n = 23)	Non-PEB (n = 603)	P value
Age (yr)	66.49 ± 15.4	71.74 ± 14.2	66.29 ± 15.4	0.095 <sup>a</sup>
Male gender [n (%)]	291 (46.5%)	11 (47.8%)	280 (46.4%)	0.896 <sup>b</sup>
Native papilla [n (%)]	284 (45.4%)	14 (60.9%)	270 (44.9%)	0.130 <sup>b</sup>
Abdominal malignancy at presentation [n (%)]	193 (30.8%)	9 (39.1%)	184 (30.5%)	0.380 <sup>b</sup>
Non	433 (69.2%)	14 (60.9%)	419 (69.5%)	0.634 <sup>b</sup>
Pancreas	147 (23.5%)	6 (26.1%)	141 (23.4%)	
Cholangiocarcinoma	24 (3.8%)	2 (8.7%)	22 (3.6%)	
Liver metastases	14 (2.2%)	1 (4.3%)	13 (2.2%)	
Other abdominal	8 (1.3%)	0 (0%)	8 (1.3%)	
s/p liver transplantation	44 (7.0%)	0 (0%)	44 (7.3%)	0.179 <sup>b</sup>
Indications [n (%)]				0.337 <sup>b</sup>
Choledocholithiasis	201 (32.1%)	7 (30.4%)	194 (32.2%)	
Chronic pancreatitis	23 (3.7%)	2 (8.7%)	21 (3.5%)	
Obstructive malignancy	98 (15.7%)	6 (26.1%)	92 (15.3%)	
Benign bile duct stricture	130 (20.8%)	2 (8.7%)	128 (21.2%)	
Elective stent replacement	156 (24.9%)	6 (26.1%)	150 (24.9%)	
Surgical complications	18 (2.9%)	0 (0%)	18 (3.0%)	
Procedure characteristics				
Duration (minutes)	29.09 ± 25.3	40.87 ± 42.7	28.64 ± 24.3	0.02 <sup>a</sup>
Sphincterotomy [n (%)]	279 (44.6%)	15 (65.2%)	264 (43.8%)	0.136 <sup>b</sup>
Pre-cut [n (%)]	46 (7.3%)	2 (8.7%)	44 (7.3%)	0.772 <sup>b</sup>
TTS dilation [n (%)]	33 (5.3%)	0 (0%)	33 (5.5%)	0.249 <sup>b</sup>
Pancreatic stent [n (%)]	52 (8.3%)	2 (8.7%)	50 (8.3%)	0.945 <sup>b</sup>
Tandem EUS/ERCP [n (%)]	42 (6.7%)	5 (21.7%)	37 (6.1%)	0.003 <sup>b</sup>
Tandem EUS/ERCP + FNA [n (%)]	13 (2.1%)	4 (17.4%)	9 (1.5%)	< 0.001 <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Student's *t*-test;<sup>b</sup>Pearson  $\chi^2$  as appropriate.

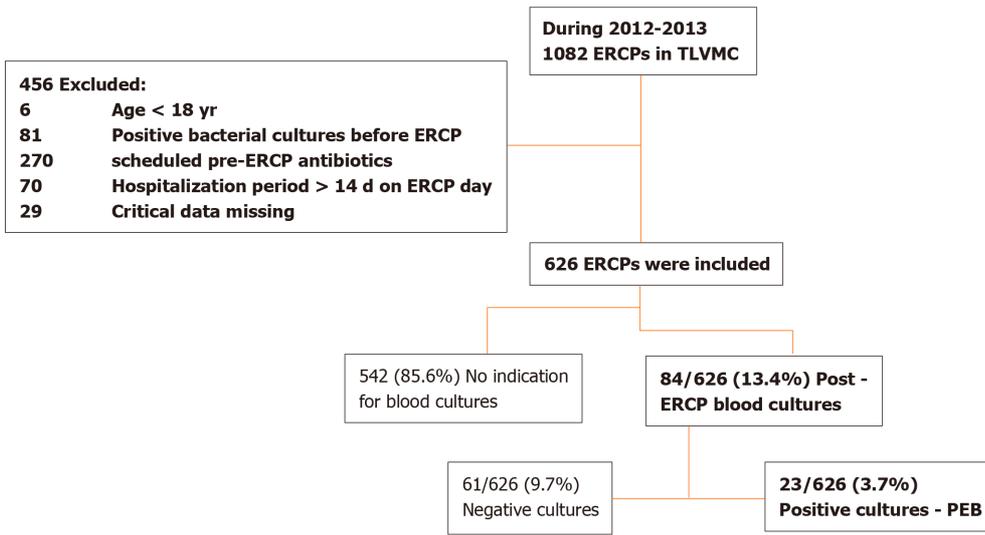
ERCP: Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography; PEB: Post endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography bacteremia; s/p: Status post; TTS: Through the scope; EUS: Endoscopic ultrasound; FNA: Fine needle aspiration.

### Antibiotic prophylaxis

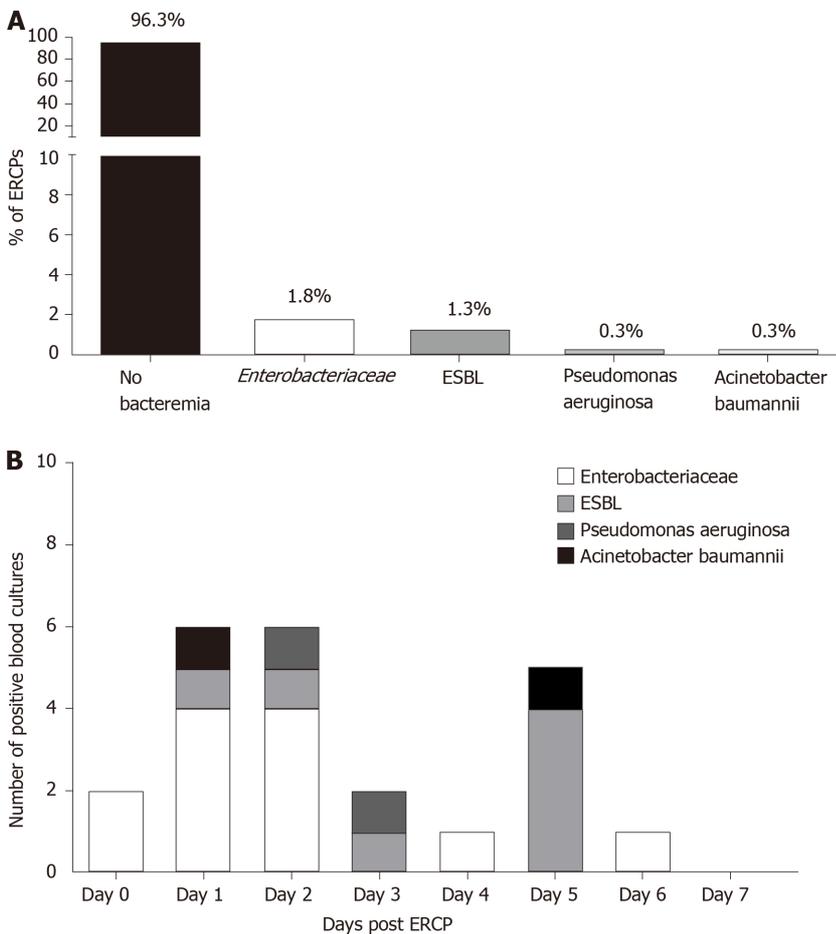
In elective ambulatory procedures (520/626 cases, 83.1%), antibiotic prophylaxis with ceftriaxone was administered in 14.2% of the cases. Administration was in accordance with ASGE recommendations and at the endoscopist discretion. In hospitalized patients (106/626 cases, 16.9%), antibiotic prophylaxis was administered in 61.3% of cases (61.3% *vs* 14.2%, in-patients *vs* out-patients respectively,  $P < 0.001$ ). Administration was at the treating physician discretion. Prophylaxis in hospitalized patients was administered as a single drug in 13 cases (20.0%), two drugs in 7 cases (10.8%) and three drugs in 45 cases (69.2%).

In order to assess the appropriateness of antibiotic administration, a case by case review of the ERCP reports by an advanced endoscopist blinded to drug administration was performed. Antibiotic prophylaxis was clearly indicated in 59 cases (9.3%) and not indicated in 538 cases (85.9%). In 30 cases (4.8%) antibiotic prophylaxis was deemed appropriate in the specific setting, though not clearly indicated by ASGE guidelines (Figure 3A). In line with this classification, the antibiotic prophylaxis was indicated in only 44 cases (31.7%), appropriate in 9 cases (6.5%) and not indicated in 86 (61.9%) out of 139 cases it was given (Figure 3B).

Out of 23 cases of PEB, none (0%) were indicated for antibiotic prophylaxis. Five



**Figure 1 Study flow chart.** PEB: Post endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography bacteremia; ERCP: Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography.



**Figure 2 Bacterial type's dispersion among entire cohort and according to the days past endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography date.** A: Bacterial type's dispersion among entire cohort; B: Bacterial type's according to the days past endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography date. ERCP: Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography; ESBL: Extended spectrum beta-lactamase.

cases (21.7%) were found appropriate and in 18(78.3%) cases there was no indication for antibiotic prophylaxis. In 2/23 cases of PEB antibiotic prophylaxis was actually administrated (both non-indicated). One case was an ambulatory procedure where Ceftriaxone was administered and *Enterobacteriaceae* PEB occurred. The other was an in-patient treated prophylactically by three different antibiotics (ceftriaxone, gentamycin and metronidazole) but ended up with ESBL PEB. In both cases the procedure duration was longer than 60 min (Figure 4).

### Risk factors for post ERCP bacteremia

In order to evaluate novel risk factors for PEB, two methods were used: Multivariate logistic regression and decision tree. By univariate logistic regression, PEB (as the dependent variable) and 13 independent variables were evaluated. Four variables were found to be statistically significant: Age at ERCP (years) (OR, 1.027, 95%CI: 0.995-1.060,  $P = 0.096$ ); Tandem EUS/ERCP (Yes vs No) (OR, 4.130, 95%CI: 1.494-12.084,  $P = 0.007$ ); Tandem EUS/ERCP with FNA (Yes vs No) (OR, 13.984, 95%CI: 1.552-8.925,  $P < 0.001$ ); ERCP duration (minutes) (OR, 1.011, 95%CI: 1.001-1.022,  $P = 0.034$ ) (Table 2). Both appropriateness of prophylaxis administration and actual prophylaxis administration were not shown to increase the risk for PEB (Table 2). We elected and entered three variables (ERCP duration, age at ERCP and tandem EUS/ERCP with FNA) into a decision tree. In this preliminary model the cut points were age  $\geq 75$  years and ERCP duration  $\geq 60$  min (not shown). Therefore, we re-analyzed these variables as dichotomous variables in the univariate logistic regression (Table 2). The three mentioned variables were entered to a stepwise multivariate logistic regression along with "antibiotic prophylaxis" as a possible confounder (Table 2). All three factors were significant risk factors: Age at ERCP  $\geq 75$  years (OR, 3.780, 95%CI: 1.519-9.408,  $P = 0.004$ ); Tandem EUS/ERCP with FNA (OR, 14.528, 95%CI: 3.571-59.095,  $P < 0.001$ ); ERCP duration  $\geq 60$  min (OR, 5.396, 95%CI: 1.86-15.656,  $P = 0.002$ ). Administration of antibiotic prophylaxis was not a significant beneficial factor.

In the second method we entered the selected 3 variables along with "antibiotic prophylaxis" as a possible confounder into a decision tree model (Figure 5). If EUS with FNA preceded ERCP, the probability for PEB was 31%. If not, but the duration of the ERCP was equal to or longer than 60 min, the probability for PEB was 10%. If the duration was less than 60 min and no FNA was performed but the age of the patient equal or greater than 75 years, the probability for PEB was 6% without prophylaxis and 0% with prophylaxis. If the patient did not have any risk factor, the probability for PEB was 1% regardless of prophylaxis administration.

The area under the roc curve of the logistic regression model was 0.766 and the area under the roc curve of the decision tree model was 0.778 (Figure 6).

## DISCUSSION

The rate of bacteremia in our study was 3.7%. Similar rates of 3.56% and 3.1% were described in studies by Du *et al*<sup>[5]</sup> and Kwak *et al*<sup>[6]</sup> respectively, and can be explained by a uniform definition of PEB occurring up to 7 days from ERCP, and matching inclusion and exclusion criteria that omit patients with suspected pre-ERCP bacteremia or scheduled antibiotic therapy. Much higher rates of bacteremia were described by Thosani *et al*<sup>[7]</sup> but in that study blood cultures were actively obtained from all patients regardless of their clinical condition. Moreover, all patients in that study underwent Spyglass choledochoscopy which was proved to be a risk factor for PEB by itself. Supported by Two statistical models (stepwise multivariate logistic regression (ROC, 0.766) and a decision tree model (ROC, 0.778), three independent risk factors for PEB were found in the current study: ERCP duration  $\geq 60$  min, age at ERCP  $\geq 75$  years and Tandem EUS/ERCP with FNA. According to the decision tree model, without any risk factors the probability for PEB was 1% regardless of prophylaxis administration.

As in our study, Longer duration of ERCP was also found to be an independent risk factor in the Swedish GallRiks registry<sup>[3]</sup> where procedures over 30 min carried a higher rate of overall complications (OR, 1.54, 95%CI: 1.43-1.65)<sup>[3]</sup>. In contrast, Thosani *et al*<sup>[7]</sup> found that total ERCP procedure time had no effect on PEB rate. This discrepancy, again, might be explained by the different nature of the studies, where in the last study patients had a more invasive procedure which influenced the rate of overall PEB and, most likely, affected risk factors. As for the patients' age, the Swedish GallRiks registry<sup>[3]</sup> found age below 70 years to be a significant risk factor for overall complications (OR, 1.26, 95%CI: 1.18-1.35)<sup>[3]</sup> while in our study, being older than 75

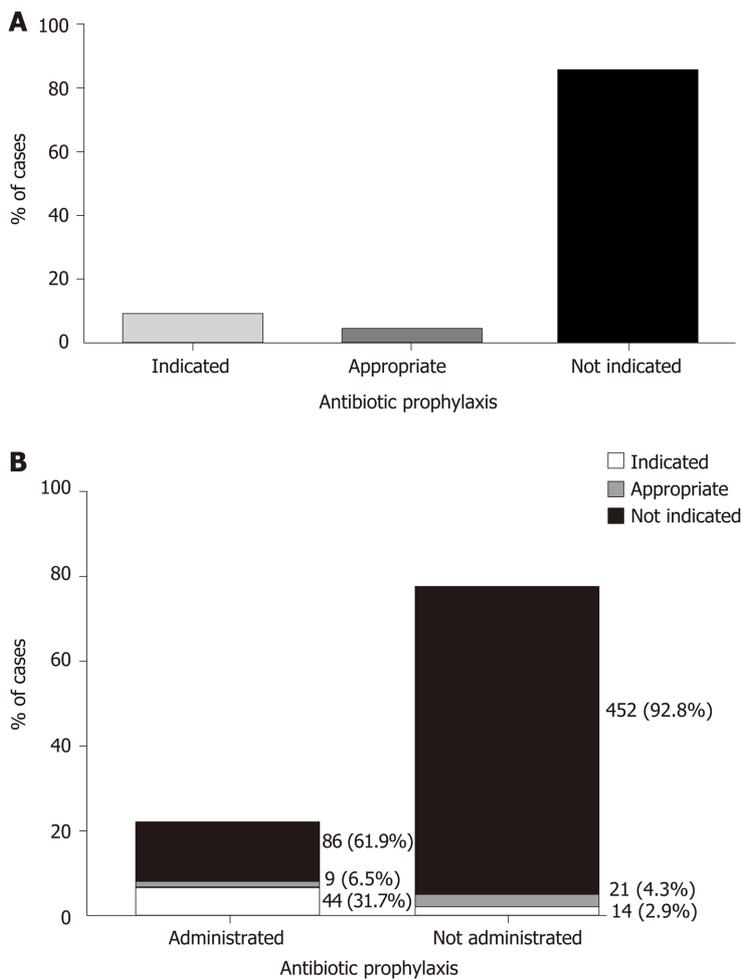
Table 2 Univariate and multivariate logistic regression

Variable	Univariate logistic regression			Multivariate logistic regression		
	Exp (b)	95%CI	P value	Exp (b)	95%CI	P value
Gender (male <i>vs</i> female)	1.057	0.459-2.434	0.444			
Age at ERCP (yr)	1.027	0.995-1.060	0.096			
Native papilla (Yes <i>vs</i> No)	1.913	0.815-4.487	0.136			
Obstructive abdominal malignancy (Yes <i>vs</i> No)	1.464	0.622-3.443	0.382			
Naïve obstructive malignancy (Yes <i>vs</i> No)	1.960	0.753-5.104	0.168			
Antibiotic prophylaxis (Yes <i>vs</i> No)	0.324	0.075-1.399	0.131	0.224	0.087-1.775	0.224
Appropriateness (indicated, appropriate, not indicated)	1.048	0.514-2.135	0.898			
Tandem EUS/ERCP (Yes <i>vs</i> No)	4.130	1.494-12.084	0.007			
Tandem EUS/ERCP with FNA (Yes <i>vs</i> No)	13.894	3.928-49.145	< 0.001	14.528	3.571-59.095	< 0.001
Sphincterotomy (Yes <i>vs</i> No)	2.408	1.006-5.764	0.051			
Precut (Yes <i>vs</i> No)	1.210	0.275-5.329	0.801			
TTS dilation (Yes <i>vs</i> No)	0.000	-	1.000			
ERCP duration (min)	1.011	1.001-1.022	0.034			
Age at ERCP ≥ 75 years (Yes <i>vs</i> No)	3.722	1.552-8.925	0.003	3.780	1.519-9.408	0.004
ERCP duration ≥ 60 minutes (Yes <i>vs</i> No)	3.933	1.438-10.432	0.006	5.396	1.86-15.656	0.002

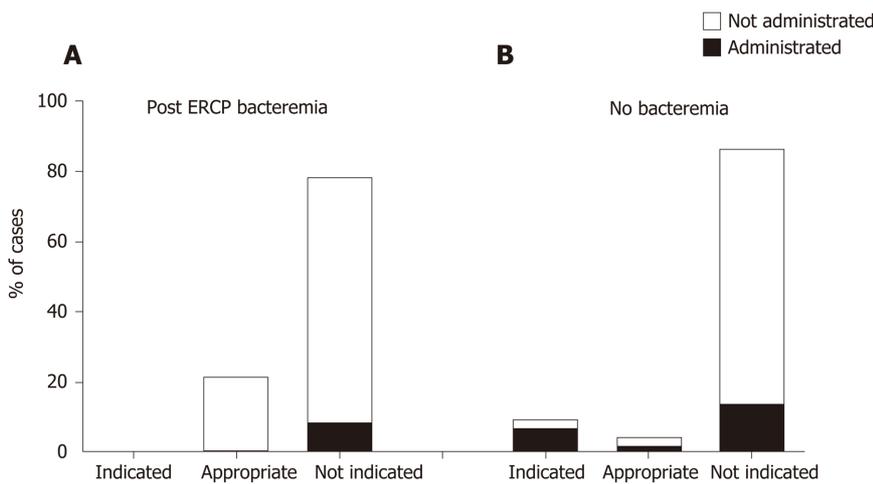
Dependent variable: Outcome of post endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography bacteremia; ERCP: Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography; EUS: Endoscopic ultrasound; FNA: Fine needle aspiration; TTS: Through the scope.

years was an independent risk factor for PEB with odds ratio of 3.780 (1.519-9.408,  $P = 0.004$ ). This dis-concordance results from different outcome variables. In the Swedish registry the outcome was post-ERCP 30-d overall adverse event rates (including pancreatitis, cholangitis, abscess formation, and perforation). The authors do not describe the prevalence of each complication, but there were 646 patients with septic complications out of 2729 cases with overall complications (23.7% of overall complication events). This can have a major effect on the risk factors. For instance, post-ERCP pancreatitis is well associated with younger age. In accordance to our study, Thosani *et al*<sup>[7]</sup> demonstrated that patients with sustained PEB were significantly older than patients who had no documented bacteremia ( $73 \pm 3$  *vs*  $61 \pm 2$ ,  $P = 0.0078$ ). Our third independent risk factor for PEB was tandem ERCP and EUS procedures with FNA from a solid lesion. This was the most influential risk factor with a probability of 30% to result in PEB according to the decision tree model and odds ratio of 14.528 (95%CI: 3.571-59.095,  $P < 0.001$ ) according to the multivariate analysis. Three studies found that the risk of bacteremia after EUS FNA of solid lesions of the upper gastrointestinal (UGI) tract is similar to that for routine endoscopic procedures for which antibiotic prophylaxis is not recommended<sup>[8,9]</sup>. As a result, the ASGE guidelines<sup>[1]</sup>, recommend against administration of prophylactic antibiotics prior to EUS and FNA from a solid mass. However, very scarce data exist regarding bacteremia after tandem EUS-ERCP procedures. In a study by Gornal *et al*<sup>[10]</sup>, 3/51 (5.9%) patients had bacteremia after a combined EUS and ERCP procedure. FNA from a suspected malignant tumor was performed in 33 (60%) of all EUS procedures. Study population included both patients with benign disease (choledocholithiasis) and malignant disease among which some had EUS guided biliary drainage (16 procedures). All patients received prophylactic antibiotics. Data regarding bacteremia in each subgroup is not available but overall it seems higher than ERCP alone, as this rate of 5.6% occurred despite a uniform prophylactic antibiotics strategy. It is still questionable if the most influential factor contributing to higher bacteremia rate in that study was the EUS itself, the FNA or the biliary drainage.

Our study showed predominantly *Enterobacteriaceae* PEB (1.8%). Nevertheless, second in line was ESBL PEB (1.3%). There is a global rise in the prevalence of resistant bacterial strains possibly due to overuse of antibiotics. In a Japanese study<sup>[11]</sup>, biliary

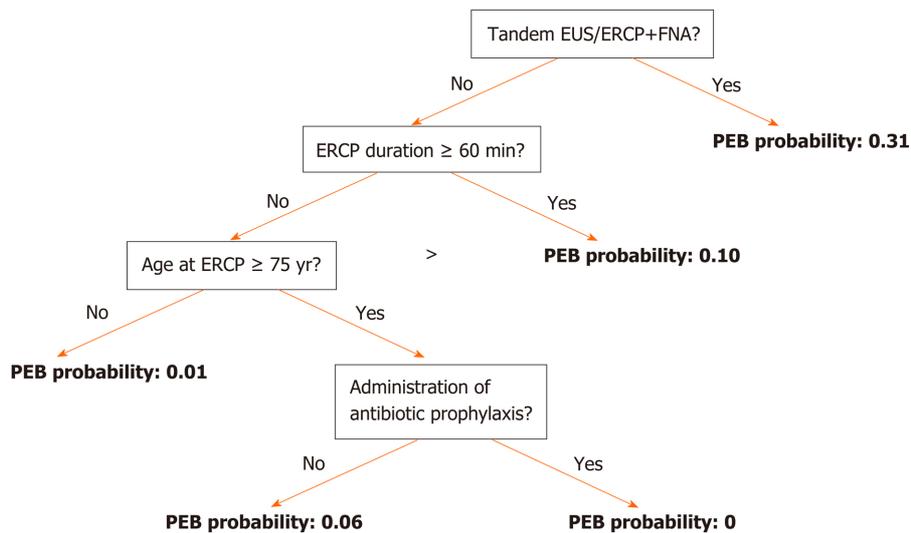


**Figure 3 Appropriateness of antibiotic administration.** A: Categorization of antibiotic prophylaxis appropriateness according to ASGE guidelines; B: Sub-categorization of prophylaxis appropriateness among cases who were actually administered with antibiotics and those who were not.

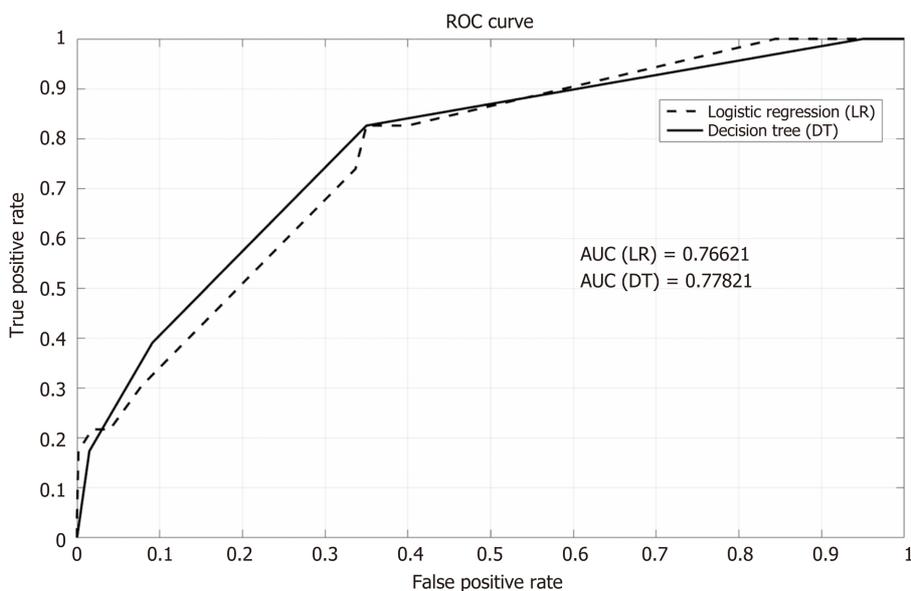


**Figure 4 Sub-categorization of prophylaxis administration in each category of prophylaxis appropriateness among cases with or without post endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography bacteremia.** ERCP: Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography.

drug resistant bacteria was more prevalent in the group receiving antibiotic prophylaxis compared to controls (29.3% vs 5.7%,  $P = 0.006$ ). Performance of biliary drainage further increased the prevalence of drug-resistant bacteria in both groups, but the difference between them remained statistically significant (36.4% vs 10.0%,  $P = 0.030$ ). This implies that prophylactic antibiotic treatment should not be given



**Figure 5** Decision tree model for the outcome of post endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography bacteremia. PEB: Post endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography bacteremia. ERCP: Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography; EUS: Endoscopic ultrasound; FNA: Fine needle aspiration.



**Figure 6** Receiver operating characteristic curves of the logistic regression model (broken line, AUC, 0.766) and the decision tree model (continuous line, AUC, 0.778). ROC: Receiver operating characteristic.

universally and efforts should be made to accurately recognize the patients or the type of procedure in which it deems necessary.

Our study has a few limitations most of them are due to its retrospective nature. However, since the data was documented prospectively and the collection of data was very thorough, missing data was very scarce. Furthermore, the study was not randomized and antibiotic administration was according to the treating physician discretion. Nevertheless, this allowed us to investigate compliance with ASGE guidelines and the association with PEB cases.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, PEB is consistently reported in the literature regardless of antibiotic prophylaxis. Moreover, there is upward trend in the emergence of resistant bacteria. Antibiotics administration is a double edge sword, too little will result in PEB, while

too much will result in side effects and resistant bacteria. Thus, better classification of risk factors is required. In our study, ERCP duration over 1-hour, Tandem EUS-ERCP with FNA and age above 75 years were found to be significant risk factors for PEB by two independent statistical models. These factors should be further evaluated as valid indications for prophylactic antibiotic treatment before ERCP.

## ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

### **Research background**

Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) is currently the method of choice for the treatment of biliary and pancreatic duct obstruction. Clinically significant post-ERCP bacteremia (PEB) occurs in up to 5% of cases, while antibiotic prophylaxis is recommended only when an ERCP is unlikely to achieve complete biliary drainage.

### **Research motivation**

The current recommendations do not address specific populations or procedure-related factors that require specific management in terms of antibiotic prophylaxis. Identification of risk factors for PEB may reduce its occurrence and related complications.

### **Research objectives**

The primary objective of this study was to evaluate possible risk factors for PEB. Secondary objectives were: Evaluation of PEB prevalence and to assess "real-life" practices of antibiotic administration and their competency to ASGE guidelines.

### **Research methods**

This was a retrospective study of all ERCP procedures performed in a single tertiary medical center. Data collection included: Demographic and clinical characteristics such as pre and post procedure antibiotic treatment and bacterial blood cultures and procedure related characteristics. Strict eligibility criteria were applied and 626 ERCPs were included in the final analysis. Stepwise Logistic Regression analysis and Decision Tree algorithms were used for prediction modeling of PEB.

### **Research results**

A total of 626 ERCPs performed in 434 patients were included. PEB prevalence was 3.7%. Antibiotic prophylaxis was administrated in 22.2% cases but was indicated according to the guidelines only in 7% of cases. In all the PEB cases, prophylaxis was deemed not indicated. A stepwise logistic regression (ROC, 0.766), identified 3 variables as independent risk factors for PEB: Age at ERCP  $\geq$  75 years, Tandem EUS/ERCP with FNA and ERCP duration longer than 60 min. In a decision tree model (ROC, 0.778) the probability for PEB without any risk factors was 1% regardless of prophylaxis administration.

### **Research conclusions**

Our study demonstrated that ERCP duration longer than 60 min, tandem EUS-ERCP with FNA and age above 75 years are significant risk factors for PEB. Moreover, the prevalence of PEB in our study was similar to previous reports, despite the fact that antibiotic prophylaxis was administrated more readily than recommended. Both conclusions support a more tailor-made approach regarding antibiotic prophylaxis before ERCP.

### **Research perspectives**

Future prospective studies should focus on these risk factors as indications for prophylactic antibiotic treatment before ERCP in order to reduce the prevalence of PEB.

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