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Palliative percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy placement for gastrointestinal cancer: Roles, goals, and complications

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Abstract

Percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy tube placement is an invaluable tool in clinical practice that has an important role in the palliative care of patients with gastrointestinal cancer. While there is no extensive data regarding the use of this procedure in patients with gastrointestinal malignancy, inferences can be made from the available information derived from studies of similar or mixed populations. Percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy tubes can be used to provide enteral nutrition for terminal malignancies of the upper gastrointestinal tract as well as for decompression of malignant obstructions. The rates of successful placement for cancer patients with either of these indications are high, similar to those in mixed populations. There is no conclusive evidence that the procedure will help patients reach nutritional goals for those needing alimental supplementation. However, it is effective at relieving symptoms caused by malignant obstruction. A high American Society of Anesthesiologist physical status score and an advanced tumor stage have been shown to be independent predictors of poor outcomes following placement in cancer patients.

Match Overview

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