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Role of splenic Elastography in predicting severity of Esophageal varices

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Elastography is a non-invasive imaging technique used to evaluate stiffness / elasticity of human tissues. It can be performed by ultrasonography or magnetic resonance imaging. Ultrasound elastography (US-E) has gained more acceptance due to wider availability, ease of examination and shorter examination time relative of magnetic resonance elastography (MR-E). For long US-E has been in use for determining the severity of liver disease and predicting its prognosis. Recently, there is a growing interest towards assessment of spleen stiffness / elastography, considering the pivotal role of spleen in splanchnic circulation during the evolution of liver cirrhosis, portal hypertension & esophageal varices. US-E using acoustic radiation force impulse (ARFI) technique allows the quantitative / objective assessment of spleen stiffness. Hence, a pilot study is conducted to evaluate the role of splenic elastography in predicting the occurrence & grading of esophageal varices. Spleen stiffness measured by ARFI elastography is a reliable predictor of esophageal varices and can be used as a noninvasive means for predicting the presence and grade of esophageal varices.

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