26. Distal Bile Duct

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Emerging Prognostic Factors for Clinical Care

Molecular Markers

Molecular markers are beginning to show promise in determining the prognosis of patients with distal bile duct tumors. Two genes, *PBRM1* and *BAP1* (chromatin-modulating genes), have been associated with reduced progression-free and overall survival.[1] Molecular profiling may reveal potentially targetable genes among patients with advanced disease. Potentially targetable gene alterations detected in distal bile duct tumors include *ERBB1* (*EGFR*), *ERBB2* (*HER2*), *KRAS*, *MET*, and members of the PIK3CA/AKT/mTOR (*PIK3CA* and *PTEN*), Notch signaling, and sonic hedgehog signaling pathways.[1-3]

Risk Assessment Models

The AJCC recently established guidelines that will be used to evaluate published statistical prediction models for the purpose of granting endorsement for clinical use.[4] Although this is a monumental step toward the goal of precision medicine, this work was published only very recently. Therefore, the existing models that have been published or may be in clinical use have not yet been evaluated for this cancer site by the Precision Medicine Core of the AJCC. In the future, the statistical prediction models for this cancer site will be evaluated, and those that meet all AJCC criteria will be endorsed.

Recommendations for Clinical Trial Stratification

The authors have not provided any recommendations for clinical trial stratification at this time.

Bibliography

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