

Management of bleeding esophageal varices in public and private institutions in Chile

Diagnóstico y tratamiento de las várices esófago gástricas en Chile: Realidad nacional

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Background: The better treatment modalities for bleeding esophageal varices have improved the prognosis of cirrhosis. **Aim:** To inquire about diagnostic and treatment modalities for esophageal bleeding in Chile. **Material and methods:** An enquiry about diagnosis and treatment of esophageal bleeding was designed and electronically sent to public and private health institutions that could admit patients and were located in cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants. **Results:** The enquiry was answered by 31 of 35 public and 17 of 19 private health institutions that were consulted. Emergency endoscopy was available in 6 of 27 public and in the 16 private institutions that had an emergency room. Rubber band ligation was available in 16 public (52%) and in all private institutions. Cyanoacrylate injections were done in 10 public (32%) and 11 (65%) private institutions. No public institution installed transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunts, but 8 had occasional access to this technique. T