



Cytology of the biliary tract and pancreas

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Summary

- Cytological assessment is a useful diagnostic test in the assessment of a suspicious pancreatic mass or a bile duct stricture.
- Cytologic sampling methods include percutaneous FNA, EUS-FNA, and duct brushings
- On-site assessment of sample quality by an adequately trained laboratory scientist provides immediate feedback to the clinician about the nature of the specimen, and the need of further passes.
- Due to late presentation, the prognosis of malignant disease of the bile duct and pancreas is very poor; accurate cytological diagnosis contributes to early patient management.