

THE PROCEDURE

Key point

Only 87% of patients had prophylactic antibiotics for their ERCP.

Of the 237 procedures, almost all involved the biliary tree (Table 42). These comprised of two major groups, sphincterotomy (88) and stenting (216), of which 50 were preceded by a sphincterotomy.

Table 42. Type of procedure (answers may be multiple)

	Total <i>n</i> = 237
Sphincterotomy and removal of calculus	34
Sphincterotomy and insertion of stent	50
Sphincterotomy of accessory ampulla	4
Insertion of stents into both hepatic ducts	8
Insertion of stent into bile ducts	123
Renewal of stent in bile duct	19
Removal of stent from bile duct	15
Dilation of bile duct	8
Insertion of stent into pancreatic duct	1
Removal of calculus from pancreatic duct	1
Total	263

87% (195/224) of patients having a therapeutic ERCP received prophylactic antibiotics (Table 43).

Table 43. Antibiotic prophylaxis for ERCP

Antibiotic prophylaxis	Total	(%)
Yes	195	(87)
No	29	(13)
Sub-total	224	
Not answered	13	(6)
Total	237	

6% of patients undergoing ERCP without duct occlusion and 10% of those with duct occlusion are likely to develop bacteraemia⁹. In the BSG guidelines on the use of antibiotics⁹, the BSG recommends antibiotic prophylaxis for all patients undergoing ERCP with evidence of biliary sepsis, pancreatic pseudo-cyst or previous cholangitis as well as patients who are either at risk of infective endocarditis or are neutropenic. Antibiotic prophylaxis should more closely approach 100% in this high-risk group. Although there may be local protocols regarding antibiotic prophylaxis, it is the responsibility of the endoscopist to ensure the patient has received appropriate antibiotics before the procedure.

Table 44. Duration of ERCP procedures		
Duration of procedure (minutes)	Total	(%)
0-10	1	(<1)
11-20	22	(18)
21-30	44	(36)
31-40	18	(15)
41-50	16	(13)
51-60	12	(10)
61-70	4	(3)
71-80	1	(<1)
81-90	2	(2)
91-100	2	(2)
>100	1	(<1)
Sub-total	123	
Not answered	114	(48)
Total	237	

One could anticipate that a therapeutic ERCP would take in the region of 45 minutes. It is disappointing that for 48% (114/237) of cases the respondents were not able to provide times for the procedures; they should be available (Table 44). When times were provided 55% of procedures took under 30 minutes, 38% between 30 and 60 minutes and only 8% lasted for more than one hour. The procedure that lasted more than 100 minutes in fact lasted six hours!