



THE UTILITY OF THE STOOL COLOR CARD (SCC) AS A SCREENING TOOL IN THE TIMELY DETECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF BILIARY ATRESIA: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS

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BACKGROUND

Biliary atresia is the most frequent hepatic cause of morbidity and mortality in childhood. The prognosis for patients diagnosed with this condition is directly related to the time of diagnosis and the time of Kasai procedure. Studies have shown the importance of biliary atresia in the prompt management of Biliary atresia.

OBJECTIVES

To determine the strength of the stool color card in the accuracy in early detection and work up of Biliary Atresia and its outcomes in the management and prognosis.

METHODS

This is a systematic review and a meta-analysis of cohort studies reported in accordance with the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA) check list. Study quality was assessed using the Newcastle-Ottawa score. Pooled Odds Ratios were estimated using a random-effects model.

RESULTS

Of 94 studies identified, 6 studies were included in the systematic review. All of the studies included were high quality with a median score of 7. There was significant increase in early diagnosis, earlier age (days of life) of Kasai procedure and there was less need for liver transplant on diagnosed cases.

CONCLUSION

This systematic review and meta-analysis suggests that the implementation of the stool color card in the screening program had shown significant difference in the detection of early work up, diagnosis and the intervention in the management of Biliary Atresia.