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EUS and Operator Dependence

- ‘Why is it important to find a good endosonographer?’
 - Clinical experience
 - ◆ Do they understand the questions that need to be answered?
 - Procedural experience
 - ◆ Can they achieve the procedural objectives?
 - Reproducibility of results



EUS and Operator Dependence

- 'Wide range of variation between accuracy for pancreatic cancer diagnosis'
 - Issues surrounding identification of mass lesions
 - ◆ Pancreatitis (acute and chronic)
 - ◆ Inflammatory masses/autoimmune pancreatitis
 - ◆ FNA necessary for tissue diagnosis



EUS and Operator Dependence

- **‘Make sure your endosonographer has good and on-site cytology support too’**
 - **American and European data reproducibly demonstrates a 15-20% decrement in diagnostic yield without on-site cytopathology**
 - **There is a learning curve to diagnosis and literature exists to aid in increasing accuracy**



EUS and Operator Dependence

- **‘Cost of mis-staging of luminal cancers’**
 - **Psychic harm to patient and MD**
 - **Exact impact depends upon lesion and therapeutic alternatives**
 - ◆ **Over-stage vs. under-stage**
 - **Delay to appropriate therapy**
 - **Cost-minimization studies – but this cost not calculated**



EUS and Operator Dependence

- **‘Absence of immediate feedback mechanism for a “failed” or “suboptimal” EUS exam’**
 - **‘You might find out the poor results of an endosonographer only when it is too late’**
 - ◆ **Endosonographers should periodically assess their accuracy**
 - ◆ **Review of surgical path reports when available**

