**Study review:** Retrospective observational trial of the management of acute necrotizing pancreatitis

1. **Has a central question/aim/hypothesis been defined?**
   1. **If applicable, have the sub-aims/sub-hypotheses been stated?**

There is not study hypothesis. This is a retrospective study evaluating and comparing varying methods of treatment of a relatively uncommon condition – necrotizing pancreatitis – and correlating them with clinical outcome. The ultimate aim of the study is to be able to define best practices in managing the condition.

1. **Methodology:**
   1. **Are the methods adequate to answer study question/satisfy study aim/test hypotheses?**

No. The variety of therapies utilized for this condition is quite varied. Additionally, multiple forms of therapies are utilized on the same patient – radiological, endoscopic or surgical – and maybe used in differing sequences. In view of this extreme variability, it is difficult to believe that strong conclusions towards best practices would be possible.

* 1. **Is the study population well defined?**

No. While the condition being evaluated is a known entity, the investigators have not clarified how the condition will be diagnosed for the purpose of the study – solely by CT scan evidence of necrosis, or other methods eg CRP etc. Is there a minimum amount of necrosis that needs to be present for the patient to be included n the study? If CT findings will be utilized, will the CT have to be performed with pancreatic protocol?

* 1. **If applicable has a power analysis been performed?**

No. The authors propose an N of 200, though no details are offered in the proposal to justify this number to meet the aims of the study.

* 1. **Are the statistical methods appropriate for the data being collected and study design?**

Probably. Standard statistical methods are mentioned in the proposal though unclear as to what specific data points these statistics will be evaluating.

1. **If all the above are well defined and appropriate, is there a specific knowledge gap that exists that the study will address?**

Yes

1. **Potential for future studies:**
   1. **Do the likely results of the study have the potential to identify additional questions for future studies?**

Unclear

* 1. **Do the possible future studies have funding potential?**

Unclear