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Is Laparoscopic Liver Resection Safe For Patients With Hepatocellular Carcinoma Older Than 75 Years? A Multicenter Propensity Score-based Analysis.

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Background : Laparoscopic liver resection is a minimally invasive surgical technique that involves removing a portion of the liver through small incisions. It can be a safe and effective option for elderly patients, but the safety and feasibility of the procedure will depend on the individual patient's overall health and the specific condition being treated.

Methods : The study included 225 patients (age \geq 75) who underwent liver resection for HCC at three liver centers between March 2010 and December 2021. Patients were divided into LLR and OLR groups, retrospectively reviewed. Furthermore, subgroup analysis was performed by age groups (75-80 and >80 years).

Results : Among 225 patients, 94 patients received laparoscopic liver resection and 131 patients received open surgery. Intraoperative blood loss, transfusion, total operation time, and hospital stay were lower in LLR group than OLR group. ($p<0.001$, $p<0.001$, $p=0.026$, $p<0.001$) In subgroup analysis, laparoscopic liver resection in patients over 80 years of age did not provide inferior results compared with patients aged 75-80 years.

Conclusions : It is also important to note that Laparoscopic liver resection is a complex procedure, and not all centers or surgeon may have experience or expertise in performing this procedure. It is always recommended to seek the opinion of a high volume center or high volume surgeon who have more experience and knowledge with the procedure.

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