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Initial Outcomes Of Liver Transplantation From 55 Consecutive Cases : Stepwise Implementation Of Liver Transplantation In A Low-volume Transplant Center

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Background : Successful establishment of a liver transplant program in a low-volume transplant center is clinically challenging. We investigated the surgical outcomes of living donor liver transplantation (LDLT) and deceased donor liver transplantation (DDLT) to demonstrate the initial performance in a low-volume transplant center.

Methods : In total, 55 consecutive patients who had undergone LT from April 2014 to September 2022 were retrospectively reviewed. Patients were divided 2 groups: LDLT group (n=25) and DDLT group (n=30). Perioperative outcomes and long-term survival were compared between the two groups.

Results : In-hospital mortality cases in the LDLT and DDLT groups were 1 and 8, respectively. The preoperative mean model for end-stage liver disease score was significantly lower and the incidence of biliary complications was significantly higher in the LDLT group than in the DDLT group. There was no significant difference in overall survival between the two groups.

Conclusions : Even in low-volume transplant center, LDLT is feasible and safe. However, initial support from experienced centers and stepwise implementation are mandatory to set up a safe and effective LDLT program.

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