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Minimally invasive liver resection in Korea: A national survey based on 20 years' experience

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It has been 20 years since laparoscopic hepatectomy started in Korea in 2000. With the development of surgical instruments and techniques, most centers in Korea are performing laparoscopic or robotic hepatectomy, and it shows excellent effects in terms of reducing pain, reducing hospitalization days, and cosmetic aspects. However, since the survey on the current status of laparoscopic hepatectomy in Korea in 2012, there have been no additional investigations on laparoscopic and robotic hepatectomy. Accordingly, the academic committee conducted the following survey to understand the current status of laparoscopic and robotic hepatectomy in Korea.

There was a total of 80 respondents, 43 of whom were in their 40s (53.7%) and 74 were male (92.5%). 52 (65%) of the respondents worked in tertiary hospitals. Among 80 surgeons, 78 responded that they perform laparoscopic hepatectomy, but only 21 (26.3%) responded that they perform robotic hepatectomy. In open hepatectomy, 68 (85%) responded that they preferred anatomical resection, but in laparoscopic/robotic hepatectomy, 58 (72%) responded that they preferred anatomical resection. Two surgeons answered not to perform major hepatectomy in open surgery, and 12 surgeons answered not to perform major hepatectomy in laparoscopic/robotic surgery. For laparoscopic surgery, 46 patients performed the operation with French positioning, and 43 (53.8%) of the surgeons responded that they were positioned between the patient's legs. In laparoscopic/robotic hepatectomy, the pneumoperitoneum pressure was mostly set at 10 to 15 mmHg. Only 12 (15%) responded that they used ICG in open hepatectomy, but 42 (52.5%) responded that they used ICG in laparoscopic/robotic hepatectomy. Only 9 surgeons (11.3%) responded that they did not use the hanging maneuver in open hepatectomy, but 54 surgeons (67.5%) responded that they did not use the hanging maneuver in laparoscopic/robotic hepatectomy. In open hepatectomy, drain was inserted routinely in 80%, and in laparoscopic/robotic hepatectomy, drain was inserted routinely in 77.5%. In this study, we introduce a national survey about laparoscopic/robotic hepatectomy in Korea. As seen in the survey above, minimal invasive surgery is widely used in hepatectomy. However, laparoscopic hepatectomy is almost universal, but the rate of robotic hepatectomy is still low.