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Liver transplantation in Thailand: Recent achievements in living donor liver transplantation (LDLT)

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Lecture: Liver transplantation has become an established treatment for end-stage liver disease and unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma worldwide. The organ donation rate in Thailand is relatively low compared to other developed countries in the world. According to the Global Observatory on Donation and Transplantation, Thailand had a deceased organ donation rate of only 2.5 per million population (pmp) in 2019. This is well below the average rate for high-income countries, which was 24.3 pmp in the same year. In Thailand, the first LDLT was performed on a pediatric patient in 2001 and has continued since then. The first adult LDLT was performed in 2009 by Siriraj hospital, however, the second case of adult LDLT was not performed until 2015 by Chiang Mai University hospital. Since then, the country has made significant progress in this field. In this presentation, we will discuss how we established the adult LDLT program in Thailand and recent achievements, including patient selection, techniques, and outcomes. The presentation will focus on the criteria used for selecting donors in Thailand, including the use of advance imaging technology to improve outcomes for both donors and recipients. We will also discuss the surgical techniques used for adult LDLT and donor hepatectomy. The outcomes for adult LDLT, including complications, graft survival rates, and patient survival rates, will be compared to those of DDLT and other high-volume transplant centers. We will also examine the issue of donor safety and quality of life in adult LDLT. Additionally, we will showcase recent achievements in adult LDLT in Thailand, such as the introduction of pure laparoscopic donor right hepatectomy (PLDRH) in a low-volume transplant center, ABO-i adult LDLT and another advanced adult LDLT procedure.