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Learning Curve Of Graft Bench Operation In Living Donor Liver Transplantation : A Cumulative Sum Analysis

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Background : The middle hepatic vein(MHV) reconstruction is a critical issue for successful living donor liver transplantation. we analyzed the learning curve of MHV recontruction and described the factors affecting the learning curve, and the postoperative outcomes.

Methods : Data from donors undergoing bench surgery between January 2019 to May 2020 retrospectively reviewed. To overcome operator-dependent bias, data from procedures performed by only a single surgeon (Jeong-Moo Lee) were included. The learning curve was evaluated using the cumulative sum (CUSUM) method based on operative time.

Results : A total of 111 bench surgery were evaluated. The mean operative time was 64.0 ± 15.8 minutes, and the reconstructed MHV graft patency rate was 88.3% in recipient CT taken 7 days after liver transplantation. Portal vein stenosis occurred in 3 cases (2.7%). Hepatic artery complications were 4 (3.6%) and biliary complications were 18.1%, and no graft failure occurred during the study period. Univariable analysis showed that portal vein variation, presence of more than 2 factors of contributing difficulty were associated with a significantly higher risk of prolonged operative time. These factors are also significantly associated with prolonged operative time in multivariable analysis.

Conclusions : At least 10 cases of learning curve are required for successful bench surgery in routine case of LDLT. Multiple portal vein orifice is related with longer operative time and learning curve for the bench operation.

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