

Liver II - Revisit the Outcomes

Liver transplantation using “otherwise-discarded graft”

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Liver transplantation is an important treatment to save patients with end-stage liver disease. The shortage of donor livers seriously limits the clinical development of liver transplantation. Innovative surgical methods (split liver transplantation, living donor liver transplantation, domino liver transplantation) and improved preservation techniques (Ex vivo normothermic perfusion, EVNP) can partially alleviate this problem, but there is still a huge gap. The use of marginal donor livers, or even “otherwise-discarded partial liver graft” produced during liver surgery for patients with benign tumors, has good prospects for development. We report seven cases of liver transplantation using otherwise-discarded liver grafts. These included a case of dual-graft, using a discarded left lobe from a benign tumor resection procedure and a right lobe from living-donor procedure. No significant surgery-related complications were found. A large number of benign liver tumors are surgically resected in our center every year, and the number of potentially discarded liver grafts is considerable. The use of these otherwise-discarded livers broadens the sources of donors, but some important principles including ethical issues must also be followed.