

# Review of: "Biliary Complications Following Liver Transplantation: The First Single-Center Tunisian Experience"

Sadiq S. Sikora

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is a retrospective study of a small number of transplants performed over 23 years, wherein a lot has changed in terms of our understanding of the conduct of liver transplantation and how to minimize biliary complications. Several technical modifications in performing the biliary anastomosis have also evolved. Thus, the analysis of 18 patients with biliary complications has several statistical limitations.

Moreover, I have the following observations:

1. The authors mention 49 transplants were performed in 47 patients, but their complete analysis is based on 47 patients. Why were the two other transplants excluded? Since we are looking at biliary complications, all transplants should be analysed.
2. The authors mention 18 (38%) biliary complications, and they follow up with the statement that they had 10 early and 11 late complications (total 21). If a patient had both an early and a late complication, thus increasing the tally, it should be mentioned separately as n patients had both early and late complications.
3. Overall, the complication rate and mortality are much higher compared to contemporary series, although it is understandable considering the long period of study and the small number of transplants.
4. The discussion should address clearly how the techniques and protocols have evolved over the years to put into perspective the nature of the complications.
5. References are not uniform; some are incomplete with spelling errors.