

Peer Review

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

Nasly G. Patino-Jaramillo¹

1. Transplantation, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Colombia

General Comment

This retrospective and descriptive study aims to report the incidence of biliary complications over a 20-year period in liver transplant patients at a single health center. The study could contribute meaningfully to the understanding of biliary complications in liver transplantation if additional analyses are included—such as a comparison by donor type and a full multivariate analysis. Overall, the manuscript requires revision for grammar and spelling, as there are several language issues that need correction.

Major Comments

- **Statistical Analysis:**
 - Include a comparison between **living vs. deceased donors**, especially since LDLT has higher complication rates.
 - Present the **full multivariate regression model**, even if results are not statistically significant.
 - Consider analyzing **time to complication** using Kaplan–Meier curves or similar.
 - The **statistical methods** are described briefly and need clarification: How were missing data handled?, How were variables selected for multivariate analysis?, Were corrections for multiple comparisons applied?
 - Definitions for variables (e.g., anemia cutoff) should be supported by references.
 - The study spans over **20 years** without adjusting for changes in surgical technique, protocols, or diagnostic tools — this introduces potential confounding.
- **Discussion:**

- Expand on why the center's biliary complication rates were higher (e.g., surgical volume, technical challenges, patient factors).
- Compare findings more deeply with regional and global literature.
- Discuss the **implications for clinical practice** and how the center might reduce complication rates.
- **Limitations:**
 - Clearly outline **all limitations**: small sample size, retrospective design, long study period, missing variables.
 - Consider how these limitations affect the interpretation of results.
- **Ethics Approval:**

Clearly state whether **institutional review board (IRB) approval** or patient consent was obtained.

Minor Comments

Language and Grammar:

- The manuscript must undergo thorough **English language editing** for grammar, clarity, and syntax.
- **Lines 31–32:** Please cite the source of the information on the first liver transplant.
- **Line 46:** Please separate the words “isretrospective” into “is retrospective.”
- **Line 52:** Please provide a definition of primary graft non-function as part of the exclusion criteria.
- **Line 54:** Specify which laboratory tests were included in this category.
- **Lines 57 and 117:** Correct the spelling of the word “syndrome.”
- **Lines 53–58:** Please revise and improve the clarity and structure of this paragraph.
- **Line 62:** Indicate the time frame used to define the onset of early biliary complications.
- **Line 63:** Define the period used to categorize late biliary complications.
- **Line 69:** Please separate the words “logisticregression” into “logistic regression.”
- The term “umbilical vein repermeabilization” needs clarification and possible standardization.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.