

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

## The Good:

This is an excellent study of the various biliary complications as experienced at a single center performing liver transplantations in Tunisia over the past 20+ years. The patients encompass a broad age range [9 to 62 years, average 41 years].

It is a valid scientific approach to divide the complications into early and late occurrences. This provides insight into expected potential early and late complications. It also provides guidance on the possible range of clinical interventions to counter or mitigate those complications.

The language used in the text is to the point, informative, and without ambiguities or unnecessary excessive verbosity.

## The Bad:

It is understood that the first language of the authors is likely not English. In Tunisia, it likely would be some idiom of Arabic and/or French. As a result, the English phraseology and use of words and idiomatic expressions are rather unusual. This is a major detractor of the manuscript as it currently stands. I myself also speak French (I used to live in France in the past), and I can see how the French used in Tunisia impacts the English phraseology in an unusual way. The substandard English might limit the number of potential readers who might not go to the trouble of deciphering the intended meaning of the text. Significant revisions are needed to bring the text to a level expected by and accustomed to by an Anglophone readership. One gets the impression that the authors did not go the extra step to re-read the manuscript before submitting it for review. The text might greatly benefit from review by a native English-speaking person in Tunisia. Below, I am attempting to provide a few examples of more suitable versions of sentences in order to improve the linguistic quality of this paper.

## The Ugly:

- Numbering of the lines in the manuscript would have made identifying the items to be corrected that much easier and more convenient.
- Abbreviations have to be introduced by first spelling out the full, unabbreviated version of the terms, followed by the

abbreviation, e.g., hepatic artery thrombosis [HAT]. Otherwise, the reader is left wondering what the abbreviation means and wastes time reading the paper to guess what a particular abbreviation might mean.

- The punctuation is erratic, sentences start with lower-case letters, and the English phraseology is non-standard for a publication in an English-language journal. These need to be corrected [I provide examples below].

Page 1, Abstract: "...hepaticojejunostomy (p=0.042). The late biliary...". "... time > 8 hours (p=0.022). Multivariate..." "... to the ones reported in the literature.

Page 2, Introduction: "... 56 transplantations until...". "... considered to be the Achilles heel of..."

Page 2, Methods: "This study is retrospective..."

Page 2, Patients screening: "... occurred perioperatively...". "... with the donor were type of graft...". "... ischemia. Post transplantation factors included...". "... syndrome..."

Page 2, Study endpoints: "... complications are defined...". "... study endpoints.

Page 3, Statistical analysis: "The SPSS statistics software version 25 (insert name and location of manufacturer). "... binary logistic regression (in two separate words). "... were considered for the multivariable (you mean: multivariate).

Page 3, last paragraph under Results: "... days 300 to 6120. They were..."

Page 3, Pre-operative data: "... and 6 were female (not plural). The age of the recipients..."

Page 4, first paragraph: "The indications for (not of). "... and progressive familial intrahepatic cholestasis..." Spell out MELD in full (what does MELD mean?). "... of cirrhosis were Hepatitis B virus infection... followed by Hepatitis C virus infection.

Page 4, second paragraph: "Two recipients (11%)... (2 : 18 = 11.11).

Page 4, Postoperative data: "... patient. Stenosis...; "... patient. Thrombosis...; "... in 5 and late in 1. Chronic...; "...in 2 patients. Portal vein...; "The average time to death was...; "...mortality rate was 22% (4 patients). The average time to death was 38 months.

Risk factors for (not of) the development of biliary complications (spell out in full, please)

Page 4, Discussion: "Biliary complications once considered...; "...the progress in surgical techniques.; "...for the development of (not if) biliary ...

Page 5, first paragraph: "... serum bilirubin level (delete "number") was an important..."

Page 5, third paragraph: "... after DD reconstruction...; "In the present (not presented) study...; "We conclude (present tense)..."

Page 5, fourth paragraph: "Even though the presence of hepatic artery thrombosis (HAT)...; "... supplied by vessels

originating (not originated) from...

Page 5, Conclusion: "... efforts must be made to reduce the rate of biliary complications. This study is limited by its single-center design...; "...to confirm our results and adjust (not conform) to patient-tailored...

Pages 6 and 7, References: Please only italicize the article titles, but not the authors' names or the journal names.

Thank you for allowing me to review this very interesting topic. Congratulations to the authors for submitting their experience and data.