



Submission No.: GTW-9290

Session : GTW (Go together with) Symposium

Date & Time, Place : November 18 (Sat), 11:00-12:30, Room 5F-1

Session Title : Let's Overcome Hurdles of Vietnam Transplantation

Current status of Living donor liver transplantation in Vietnam and it's hurdle

Van Linh Ho

108 Military Central Hospital, Vietnam

Vietnam is located in an area with high rates of hepatitis B and C virus infection. Statistics show that about 8 million people are currently infected with hepatitis B virus and 1 million cases of hepatitis C nationwide. This means the number of patients with liver cancer, cirrhosis, and end-stage liver diseases burden the healthcare system. A liver transplant from a live donor was performed for the first time in Vietnam since 2004 with the help of Japanese experts. After nearly 20 years of development, up to now, there are nine transplant centers across the country with a total number of liver transplants from living donors of less than 400 cases; this is a modest number with potential. The reasons for this are mainly low economic development and little surgical experience. Classification as a low and middle-income country, the cost of a liver transplant is equal to 20 times the average GDP per capita income per year. Meanwhile, national insurance does cover the liver transplantation fee so that few patients can afford liver transplantation. The second difficulty that can be mentioned is that not many surgeons can perform liver transplants in Vietnam, especially since living donor liver transplants require complex surgical skills in dissection and reconstruction. Military Central Hospital 108 has the highest number of living donor liver transplants in Vietnam. From October 2017 to September 2023, 181 live donor liver transplantation cases were performed. The average age was $51,57 \pm 13,19$ years, male/female ratio was 5,35. The indications for liver transplant were HCC (37.6%), ACLF (33,1%), decompensated liver cirrhosis (24.9%), ALF (2.2%), ICC (1.7%), and liver metastasis from colon cancer (0.5%). Early and late postoperative complications were 25.5% and 19.1%, respectively, mortality rate was 6.6%. The overall survival was 52.3 ± 2.2 months, and the 5-year survival rate was 77.3%. In conclusion, living donor liver transplantation in Vietnam has enormous development potential; its hurdles include low economic development and surgical skills.