Performing laparoscopic surgery – Perspectives of young Chinese hepatobiliary surgeons

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Summary

Laparoscopic liver resection (LLR) has garnered attention as a new form of liver surgery. In China, many hepatobiliary surgeons are now encouraging the examination and assessment of LLC in order to improve its outcomes, and several young hepatobiliary surgeons recently shared their clinical experiences and the results of their research in presentations at the Akamon Forum as part of the 118th Annual Congress of the Japan Surgical Society, which was held April 5-7, 2018 in Tokyo, Japan. In China, LLR has gradually improved over the past 20 years, including both expanded indications and improved surgical approaches. However, China is a vast country, and the level of medical care varies nationwide. Medical facilities that can perform advanced laparoscopic techniques are currently limited to those in large cities. Moreover, additional clinical studies of the long-term oncological outcomes of LLR need to be performed in the future.

Keywords: Laparoscopic liver resection, laparoscopic anatomical liver resection, ICG fluorescence imaging

Since its introduction in the late 1980s, various forms of abdominal surgery have been performed laparoscopically. Laparoscopic liver resection (LLR) has garnered attention as a new form of liver surgery, and evidence of its effectiveness is being assembled and reliable guidelines are being drafted (1-3). Many hepatobiliary surgeons are now encouraging the examination and assessment of LLC in order to improve its outcomes (4-6). Recently, several young Chinese hepatobiliary surgeons shared their clinical experiences and the results of their research at the 118th Annual Congress of the Japan Surgical Society, which was held April 5-7, 2018 in Tokyo, Japan (7).

With the support of Professor Norihiro Kokudo, the Congress President of the 118th Annual Congress of Japan Surgical Society, a special session entitled the Akamon Forum was held on April 6. More than twenty Chinese hepatobiliary surgeons from leading hepatopancreato-biliary centers in China (including surgeons from Tsinghua Changgung Hospital, West China Hospital of Sichuan University, Hunan Provincial People's Hospital, The Third Affiliated Hospital of Sun Yat-sen University, Peking University Cancer Hospital, 302 Military Hospital of China, Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hospital of Sun Yat-sen University, Beijing Shijitan Hospital of Capital Medical University, and Zhejiang Provincial People's Hospital) attended this special forum to report the results of their research into liver tumors, cholangiocarcinoma, pancreatic neoplasms, pediatric liver transplantation, and portal hypertension.

Professor Kokudo delivered warm opening remarks. Since all of the young Chinese hepatobiliary surgeons attending the Akamon Forum had studied in Japan, Professor Kokudo welcomed them back to Tokyo to share their clinical experiences and the results of their research. Professor Kokudo stressed how the Forum would surely enhance communication between young surgeons from Japan and China. Professor Kiyoshi Hasegawa from the University of Tokyo and Professor Wei Tang from the National Center for Global Health

Invasive procedures, laparoscopic surgery will gain in popularity worldwide as patients opt for less invasive options. There has been a gradual improvement in LLR, leading to improved clinical outcomes and reduced complications. However, more evidence is needed to fully establish its advantages over open surgery. Although LLR has become a topic of interest, some concerns remain, such as the need for advanced laparoscopic techniques and the need for further research on long-term oncological outcomes.

**References**


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