

Auxiliary liver transplantation

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Auxiliary LT involves implanting a healthy liver graft placed either heterotopically or orthotopically while leaving all or part of the native liver intact. Auxiliary heterotopic LT, where the graft is implanted below the native liver, was proposed as an alternative to orthotopic LT in the early era of transplantation when recipient hepatectomy was associated with massive blood loss and transfusion requirements. But the technique was marred with failures due to the heterotopic position of the graft resulting in poor venous drainage. More recently there has been a renewed interest in auxiliary LT for ALF and certain metabolic liver diseases. To overcome the previous technical difficulties, the procedure is now performed with a limited partial hepatectomy to create space for the graft (Figure 89.6). The procedure is therefore termed auxiliary partial orthotopic liver transplantation (APOLT). It is a technically demanding procedure.

Figure 89.6 Right lobe auxiliary partial orthotopic liver transplantation (APOLT) for acute liver failure due to yellow phosphorus poisoning. (a) Recipient left lateral section of the liver looking pale and fatty owing to yellow phosphorus poisoning; right lobe graft from the donor implanted into the orthotopic position. (b) Hepatobiliary iminodiacetic acid (HIDA) scans done over the first year after transplant in a left lobe APOLT. The scans show regression of the left lobe auxiliary graft and functioning native liver.

Type of extended criteria donor	Primary risk to the recipient
Advanced donor age	Delayed graft function
Delayed graft function	Macrovesicular steatosis
Donation after circulatory death	Biliary complication
Organ dysfunction at procurement	Delayed graft function, primary non-function
ICU stay >7 days	Hypernatraemia >165 mmol/L
Bilirubin >51 µmol/L	Elevated liver enzymes (AST, ALT)
Vasopressor use	Cause of death: anoxia, Delayed graft function, biliary cerebrovascular accident complication
Disease transmission: Infectious risk	Hepatitis B core antibody- positive donor
Hepatitis B surface antigen- positive donor	Hepatitis C virus-positive donor
HIV-positive donor	High-risk history (active drug abuser, etc.)
Extrahepatic malignancy	Delayed graft function, Cold ischaemia time >12 hours
primary non-function (long storage of organ after procurement)	ALT, alanine aminotransferase; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; HIV, human immunodeficiency virus; ICU, intensive care unit.

native liver regeneration in ALF. The most important benefit of APOLT is the potential for immunosuppression withdrawal when the native liver fully regenerates, although outcomes have been suboptimal in less experienced hands. In metabolic liver diseases in children, APOLT is performed with the intention of keeping part of the native liver for future gene therapy.

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