

HEMIGASTRECTOMY IN WHIPPLE'S RESECTION FOR DELAYED GASTRIC EMPTYING

Thesis

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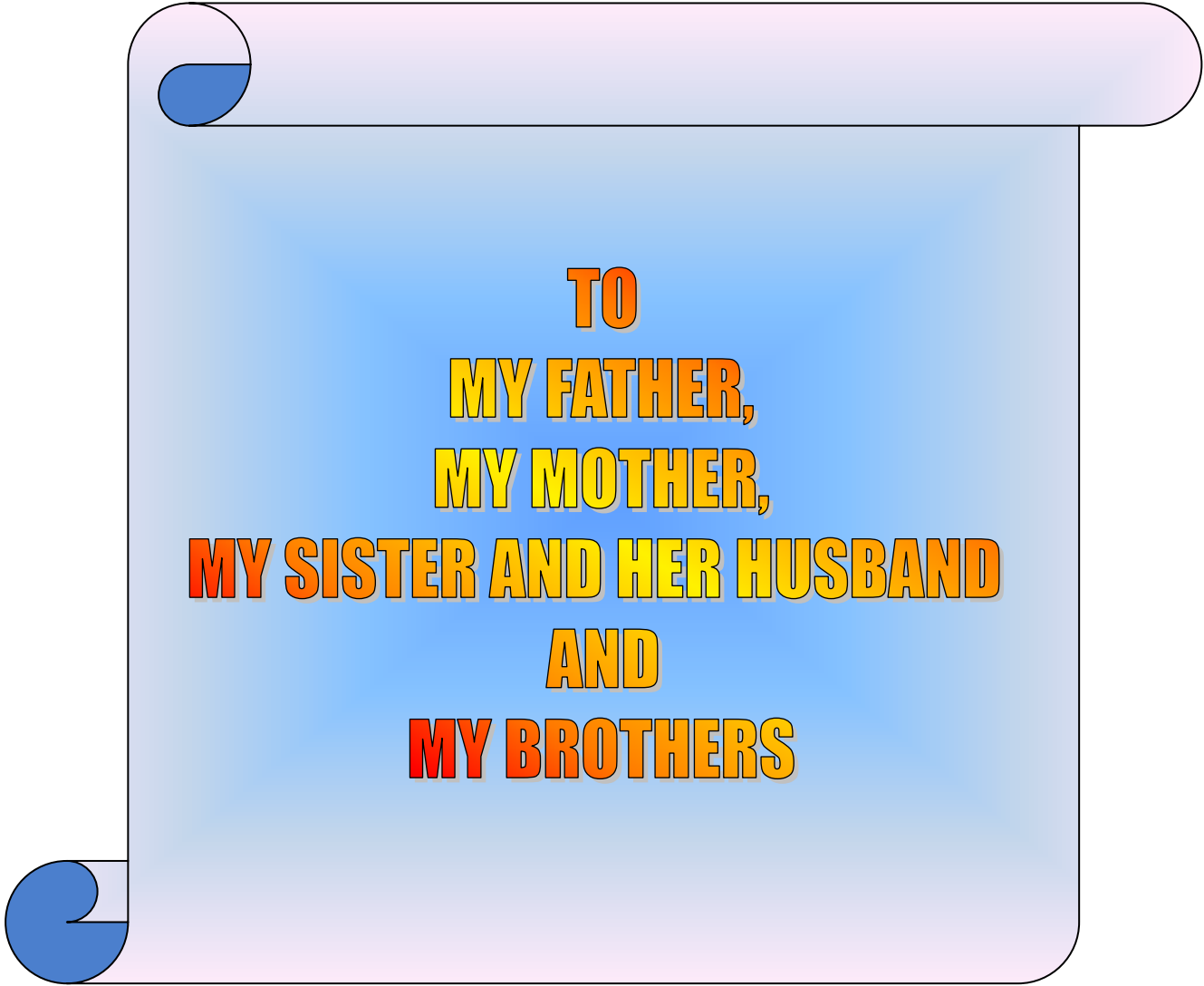
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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

﴿قَالُوا سُبْحَانَكَ لَا عِلْمَ لَنَا إِلَّا مَا عَلَّمْتَنَا
إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَلِيمُ الْحَكِيمُ﴾

(البقرة : الآية ٣٢)



**TO
MY FATHER,
MY MOTHER,
MY SISTER AND HER HUSBAND
AND
MY BROTHERS**

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Contents	Page
• INTRODUCTION	1
• AIM OF THE WORK	4
• REVIEW OF LITERATURE	5
Physiology of Gastric Emptying	5
Disorders of Gastric Emptying	20
I- Delayed Gastric Emptying (DGE)	20
II- Rapid Gastric Emptying:	27
Methods Used To Study Gastric Emptying:	28
Techniques to Ascertain the Mechanism Leading to Gastroparesis	37
Diagnosis of Pancreatic Cancer	39
I-Epidemiology And Risk Factors	39
II- Pathology	42
III-Clinical Presentation	46
IV-Investigations	49
Treatment of Pancreatic Cancer	63
(A)-Resectable lesions	63
(B) Locally advanced lesions	108
(C) Metastatic lesions	108
(D) Palliative Care	109
Management of Complications Following Pancreatico-duodenectomy	110
Delayed Gastric Emptying	112
Pancreatic Fistula	127
Intra-abdominal Abscess	131
Postoperative Hemorrhage	133
Wound Infection	135
Diabetes	136
Pancreatic Exocrine Insufficiency	136
• PATIENTS AND METHODS	138
• RESULTS	158
• DISCUSSION	184
• SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION	194
• REFERENCES	199
• ARABIC SUMMARY	

List of Table	Page
Table 1: Management of gastroparesis	26
Table 2: Methods used to study gastric emptying	29
Table 3: Risk factors associated with cancer of the pancreas	40
Table 4: TNM classification and AJCC staging of pancreatic cancer	45
Table 5: Tumor, Node, Metastasis Staging System for Pancreatic Cancer	46
Table 6: Prevalence of Pancreatic Cancer symptoms	47
Table 7: Accuracy of imaging studies for the diagnosis of pancreatic cancer	53
Table 8: Complications following pancreatoco-duodenectomy	112
Table 9a: Patient characteristics	159
Table 9b: The risk factors and preoperative medical diseases	159
Table 10: Clinical presentation	160
Table 11: Preoperative laboratory indices	160
Table 12: Preoperative ERCP and stenting of common bile duct	161
Table 13: Operative indices	162
Table 14: Histopathological diagnosis of the resected specimens	164
Table 15: Early postoperative complications, reoperation and mortality	166
Table 16: Clinical measures of the gastric emptying	170

List of Figures	Page
Figures 1: Gastric anatomy and function. The proximal stomach (orad) accommodates and stores food. The distal stomach acts as a preparatory chamber where mixing and grinding of food occurs.	5
Figures 2: Neural control of the gut wall, showing (1) the myenteric and submucosal plexuses (black fibers); (2) extrinsic control of these plexuses by the sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous systems (red fibers); and (3) sensory fibers passing from the luminal epithelium and gut wall to the enteric plexuses, then to the prevertebral ganglia of the spinal cord and directly to the spinal cord and brain stem (dashed fibers).	7
Figures 3: Membrane potentials in intestinal smooth muscle. Note the slow waves, the spike potentials, total depolarization, and hyperpolarization, all of which occur under different physiologic conditions of the intestine.	10
Figures 4: Motor activity of the proximal and distal stomach.	11
Figures 5: Gastric emptying curves for a solid (^{99m}Tc -labelled omelette, ▼) and liquid (^{111}In -labelled soft drink, ▽) meal in a healthy volunteer. Liquid emptying begins instantly in an exponential fashion, while the linear solid emptying begins after the lag phase.	12
Figures 6: Effect of atropine and erythromycin, simulating the effects of delayed and accelerated gastric emptying in disease, compared with placebo on gastric emptying 3 h after ingestion of a radiolabelled meal. The region of interest is drawn around the gastric residual. Note that hourly scans taken beyond 2 h from meal ingestion document the residual proportion of the meal remaining in the stomach.	30
Figures 7: Effect of tissue attenuation. Solid gastric emptying study ($\text{Tc}^{99\text{m}}$ - labelled omelette) in a healthy volunteer. Left image, anterior acquisitions. Note the increased retention due to anterior movement of the gastric contents during the lag phase. Right image, geometric mean corrected data from anterior and posterior acquisitions. Dotted lines are at 90% and 50% retention, respectively.	32
Figures 8: Pancreatic head mass (arrow) in 58 year old man presenting with abdominal pain and jaundice.	48
Figures 9: Large pancreatic tail mass (arrow) in 63 year old woman with abdominal discomfort and palpable mass.	49
Figures 10: The classic Whipple procedure. Before the procedure (left); after the procedure (right); with anastomosis of hepatic duct; the remaining pancreas and stomach to the jejunum.	64
Figures 11: Pylorus preserving pancreatico-duodenectomy (PPPD) (pancreatico-jejunostomy, hepatico-jejunostomy and duodeno-jejunostomy).	65
Figures 12: Incisions for pancreatic operation (a, bilateral transverse subcostal incision; b, median laparotomy; c, racket incision).	73
Figures 13: The Kocher maneuver; (inferior vena cava (IVC); aorta (Ao)).	75

List of Figures	Page
Figures 14: Isolated infrapancreatic superior mesenteric vein (SMV) and separation of the colon and its mesentery.	76
Figures 15: Cholecystectomy and dissection of the hepatoduodenal ligament; (gonadal artery (GDA), common hepatic duct (CHD), common hepatic artery (CHA), superior mesenteric vein (SMV)).	78
Figures 16: Mobilization of the pancreatic neck. Maneuver performed to detect tumor invasion of superior mesenteric vein (SMV) or superior mesenteric-portal vein confluence; (common hepatic artery (CHA), superior mesenteric artery (SMA))	80
Figures 17: The antrum of the stomach is resected with the main specimen by dividing the stomach at level of fourth transverse vein on the lesser curvature; (common hepatic duct (CHD), common hepatic artery (CHA), superior mesenteric vein (SMV), superior mesenteric artery (SMA)).	81
Figures 18: Division of the pancreas.	82
Figures 19: Dissection of the retropancreatic vessels; (superior mesenteric vein (SMV), superior mesenteric artery (SMA)).	83
Figures 20: Dissection of superior mesenteric artery; (superior mesenteric vein (SMV), superior mesenteric artery (SMA)).	84
Figures 21: Transection of the jejunum is followed by ligation and division of its mesentery; (superior mesenteric vein (SMV), superior mesenteric artery (SMA)).	85
Figures 22: The pancreatic head and uncinate process are separated from superior mesenteric-portal vein confluence ;(superior mesenteric vein (SMV), common hepatic artery (CHA)).	86
Figures 23: Standard pancreatico-duodenectomy specimen; SMPV (superior mesenteric-portal vein).	87
Figures 24: Pancreatico-jejunostomy (a two layer, end to side, duct to mucosa, retrocolic pancreatico-jejunostomy). Inset shows the completed anastomosis with an anterior layer of interrupted sutures.	91
Figures 25: Hepatico-jejunostomy (one layer, end to side hepatico-jejunostomy distal to pancreatico-jejunostomy).	92
Figures 26: Gastro-jejunostomy (a partial end to side antecolic gastro-jejunostomy, it lies a full 50 cm distal to the bilio-digestive anastomosis).	94
Figures 27: Total pancreatectomy (medial rotation of spleen and distal pancreas with divided splenic artery).	96
Figures 28: Segmental venous resection, tumor is attached only by superior mesenteric-portal vein confluence which divided proximally and distally to the involved segment. Reconstruction is performed by end-to-end anastomosis of the portal vein and superior mesenteric vein (SMV) with running or interrupted 6-0 Prolene sutures; (superior mesenteric artery (SMA)).	99
Figures 29: BI (left) and BII (right) types of reconstruction.	116

List of Figures	Page
Figure 30: A contrast-enhanced computed tomographic scan demonstrating a resectable adenocarcinoma of the pancreatic head in a patient of group (B). Note the normal tissue plane (small white arrows) between the low-density tumor and both the superior mesenteric artery (SMA) and the superior mesenteric vein (SMV). The tumor (large white arrows) clearly does not extend to either the SMA or SMV.	172
Figure 31: The line of transection of the pancreas to the left of the superior mesenteric-portal vein confluence in a patient of group (B). The pancreatic head and uncinate process were separated from the superior mesenteric-portal vein confluence. The pancreas had been transected at the level of the portal vein and the pancreatic head was reflected laterally, allowing identification of small venous tributaries from the portal vein and superior mesenteric vein.	172
Figure 32 A&B: The Line of gastric transection in group (B) patients. The line of gastric resection was extended below the first descending branch of the left gastric vessels just below the bifurcation of the main left gastric vessels on the lesser curvature of stomach to a point on the greater curvature opposite to the junction of the left and right gastroepiploic vessels or opposite to the lower border of spleen.	173
Figure 33 A, B&C: The surgical field and specimen after pancreaticoduodenectomy in a patient of group (B).	175
Figure 34: A retrocolic end-to-side hepatico-jejunostomy was performed first in a patient of group (B).	175
Figure 35 A&B: A two-layer, end-to-side, duct-to-mucosa retrocolic pancreaticojejunostomy was performed without a stent. in a patient of group (B)	176
Figure 36: Completed reconstruction after pancreaticoduodenectomy in a patient of group (B). Antecolic end-to-side gastro-jejunostomy was fashioned in 2 layers, 50cm downstream from the biliary anastomosis to prevent the possible complication of reflux cholangitis.	177
Figure 37 A, B, C & D: Upper gastrointestinal x-ray radiography using a water soluble agent gastrografin was performed on 10th postoperative day in one patient of group (A). The contrast medium flowed smoothly from the stomach to the jejunum with complete gastric emptying after 23 minutes.	178
Figure 38 A, B&C: Upper gastrointestinal x-ray radiography using a water soluble agent gastrografin was performed on 10th postoperative day in one patient of group (B). The contrast medium flowed smoothly from the stomach to the jejunum with complete gastric emptying after 20 minutes.	179
Figure 39: Gastric emptying time activity curve for a radiolabelled solid phase marker consisting of whole egg sandwich labelled with 500 μ Curi technetium 99m sulphur colloid in a patient of group (A) on the 14th postoperative day with a gastric emptying rate of 29.7% without subjective DGE (more than 30% clearance of gastric content at 60 minutes was considered as a normal study). The linear solid emptying was started after the lag phase.	179

List of Figures	Page
Figure 40: Gastric emptying time activity curve for a solid phase using technetium 99m sulphur colloid scrambled egg in a patient of group (A) on the 14th postoperative day with a gastric emptying rate of 22.7%.	180
Figure 41: Gastric emptying time activity curve for a solid phase using technetium 99m sulphur colloid scrambled egg in a patient of group (A) on the 14th postoperative day with a gastric emptying rate of 21.3%.	180
Figure 42: Gastric emptying time activity curve for a solid phase using technetium 99m sulphur colloid scrambled egg in a patient of group (B) on the 14th postoperative day with a gastric emptying rate of 33.3% (more than 30% clearance of gastric content at 60 minutes was considered as a normal study).	180
Figure 43: Gastric emptying time activity curve for a solid phase using technetium 99m sulphur colloid scrambled egg in a patient of group (B) on the 14th postoperative day with a gastric emptying rate of 32.3% (more than 30% clearance of gastric content at 60 minutes was considered as a normal study).	181
Figure 44: Sequential anterior planner view representing changes in the stomach activity with time.	181
Figure 45: Anterior planner view for abdominal region 2 hours after radioactive meal showing partial delivery of radioactivity to small bowel with residual stomach activity.	182

Introduction
&
Aim of the Work

Introduction

The incidence of pancreatic cancer appears to have increased steadily in many countries for most of the 20th century. It is the fourth and fifth most common cancer in men and women respectively (**Jemal et al., 2006**).

Pancreatico-duodenectomy (PD) has become accepted as a safe and appropriate surgical treatment providing the possibility of cure for patients with carcinoma of head of pancreas. But it can also be performed for other pathologies as periampullary cancers, distal cholangiocarcinoma, carcinoma of the ampulla, carcinoma of duodenum, large neuroendocrine tumors of pancreatic head and also sometimes for severe chronic pancreatitis involving the head of the pancreas complicated by bile duct strictures (**Williamson and Usatoff, 2000**).

Both the operative mortality and postoperative morbidity following PD has improved by the development of specialized units with increased experience and the necessary resources for optimal care. The postoperative mortality in non specialized centers often exceeds 20% but is around 6% or less in specialized centers. However, the morbidity rate even in specialized centers is still high between 30-60 percent (**Kingsnorth, 1997; Neoptolemos et al., 1997 and Halloran et al., 2002**). The relatively high incidence of postoperative complications refers to the complexity of surgery with multiple anastomoses of different types and the rather poor nutritional status and high background comorbidity of the patient group (**Halloran et al., 2002**).

It is noteworthy that although the morbidity varies from centre to centre, the median hospital stay is of a very similar order (13-18 days). This suggests that some centers with an average hospital stay are under reporting their complications (**Halloran et al., 2002**).

The most common postoperative complications following (PD) is delayed gastric emptying (DGE) occurring in 25 % - 70 % with an average of 30% of

patients (**Ohwada et al., 2001**), pancreatic fistula in 8-30% of patients (**Sampaio et al., 1998 and Sato et al., 1998**), gastrointestinal haemorrhage in 5-10 % of patients, operative site haemorrhage in 2% of cases, biliary leakage, intra-abdominal abscess, wound infection and pain (**Chew et al., 1997 and Rumstadt et al., 1998**). The main systemic complications are organ failure (cardiac, hepatic, pulmonary and renal) and pancreatitis (**Spanknebele and Conlon, 2001**).

In the last two decades, delayed gastric emptying (DGE) has come on the front scene as the leading cause of postoperative complications following pancreatic surgery. For many years after Warshaw's and Torchiana first description of this clinical entity in seven out of eight patients undergoing PD, pessimistic approaches for pancreatic cancer arising from dismal prognosis of the disease, as well as from high mortality and morbidity rates of PD, prevented the attendance of surgeons to "secondary" matters, such as DGE (**Miedema et al., 1992 and Gudjonsson, 1995**).

Although DGE is not associated with mortality, it can jeopardize nutritional status and increases the postoperative hospital stay and costs. The wide range of occurrence of DGE in the different studies can be explained partially by differences in the definition of this complication (**Ohwada et al., 2001**). A variety of definitions have been reported, such as the inability to tolerate a regular diet by the 10th postoperative day (**Braasch et al., 1984**) or 14th postoperative day (**Miedema et al., 1992**) or the start of a liquid diet after ≥ 7 days (**Patel et al., 1995**). But in recent years, the most widely acceptable definition for DGE is gastric stasis requiring nasogastric intubation ≥ 10 days following the procedure or when a solid diet cannot be tolerated on or before the 14th postoperative day (**Van Berge Henegouwen et al., 1997**).

A wide range of causative mechanisms has been proposed to be the culprit for the occurrence of DGE. These include absence of hormonal stimulation (motilin) due to resection of the duodenum (**Tanaka and Sarr, 1988**), ischemia

of the pylorus and antrum after ligation of the right gastric and gastroduodenal arteries (**Itani et al., 1986**), denervation of the stomach and duodenum due to radical resection of the surrounding tissue (**Tanaka et al., 2000**), postoperative pylorospasm (**Kim et al., 2005**) and gastroparesis secondary to postoperative intra-abdominal complications (**Miedema et al., 1992**). Other functional abnormalities include pancreatic fibrosis (**Murakami et al., 2002**), preoperative cholangitis (**Park et al., 2003**), postoperative pancreatitis (**Lin and Lin, 1999**), alternation of the endocrinologic milieu (**Kim et al., 1987**) and torsion or angulation of the reconstructed alimentary tract (**Ueno et al., 1995**).

The ill-defined etiologies in combination with the absence of a uniform definition for DGE comprise the basis of the existing debate. In addition, as a result of the tendency most surgeons have to preserve anatomic and functional structures in an attempt to improve the quality of life of the patient, various modifications of PD have emerged that make comparative studies difficult to interpret (**Seiler et al., 2005**).

Various techniques are available to study gastric emptying, all of them having specific advantages and disadvantages. Since the introduction of radionuclide gastric emptying tests, considerable improvement has been achieved in both methodology and operational equipment, and scintigraphy has become the ‘gold standard’ for measurements of gastric emptying in research and in the clinical setting (**Hellstrom et al., 2006**).

The standard treatment of early delayed gastric emptying after PD was largely supportive, incorporating prolonged nasogastric tube decompression combined with nutritional support by parenteral or enteral routes. The presence of mechanical obstruction at duodeno-jejunostomy or gastro-jejunostomy must be excluded by upper gastrointestinal series or endoscopy (**Yeo et al., 1995**). Prokinetic agents as motilin agonist (erythromycin) and 5HT₄-agonists (cisapride) have been used frequently with a variety of success (**Conlon et al., 1996**).