

**Alpha-fetoprotein Level as a Predictor of
Hepatocellular Carcinoma Recurrence after
Adult Living donor Liver Transplantation
within Milan criteria**

Thesis

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Abstract

The value of an elevated pretransplantation AFP level has a good predictive value of HCC recurrence after liver transplantation.

This study was conducted in Ain Shams Specialized Hospital to evaluate Alpha fetoprotein as a predictor of HCC recurrence after Liver transplantation. It included 75 patients underwent Liver transplantation for HCC, recurrence occurred in 6.7% of patients. pretransplantation Alpha fetoprotein was higher in patients with HCC recurrence after liver transplantation.

Keywords: Anti-thymocyte polyclonal antibodies - Azathioprine - Budd–Chiari syndrome - Body mass index

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List of Contents

Title	Page No.
List of Tables	5
List of Figures	7
List of Abbreviations	8
Introduction	1
Aim of the Study	3
Review of Literature	
▪ HCC	4
▪ Liver Transplantation	47
▪ Alpha-fetoprotein	124
Patients and Methods	132
Results	135
Discussion	152
Summary	159
Conclusion	160
Recommendation	161
References	162
Arabic Summary	

List of Tables

Table No.	Title	Page No.
Table (1):	Child–Pugh score.....	26
Table (2):	ECOG score.....	27
Table (3):	Overall result in liver transplantation by indication	56
Table (4):	Exceptions to MELD score	61
Table (5):	US Food and Drug Administration pregnancy categories for commonly used immunosuppressive drugs in liver transplantation	123
Table (6):	Serum AFP determination in liver disease	130
Table (7):	The means of patient’s age and Etiology of liver cirrhosis.....	135
Table (8):	The means of Child paugh score and MELD score.....	136
Table (9):	The means & IQR of laboratory data.....	137
Table (10):	The number & sizes of tumor nodules.....	138
Table (11):	Types of preoperative intervention	139
Table (12):	Showing number of tumor nodules and size of liver explant	140
Table (13):	Grade and degree of differentiation of histopathology	141
Table (14):	The number of patients with recurrence of HCC	142
Table (15):	Comparison between 2 groups as regard age, Sex and etiology of liver cirrhosis.....	143
Table (16):	Comparison between 2 groups as regard Child paugh score & MELD score.....	144

List of Tables (cont...)

Table No.	Title	Page No.
Table (17):	Comparison between 2 groups as regard Laboratory data	145
Table (18):	Comparison between 2 groups as regard number & size of tumor nodules	146
Table (19):	Comparison between 2 groups as regard preoperative intervention	147
Table (20):	Comparison between 2 groups as regard number and size of nodules of liver explant	148
Table (21):	Comparison between 2 groups as regard Degree of differentiation & grade of HCC	149
Table (22):	Logistic regression analysis for afeto in prediction of recurrence	150
Table (23):	ROC curve for afeto in prediction of recurrence	151

List of Figures

Fig. No.	Title	Page No.
Fig. (1):	Pathophysiology of HCC	6
Fig. (2):	Diagnostic algorithm and recall policy	22
Fig. (3):	Updated BCLC staging system and treatment strategy, 2011.....	27
Fig. (4):	Liver transplantation with piggy-back technique	50
Fig. (5):	Split liver transplantation – adult and child as recipients	53
Fig. (6):	Primary diseases leading to liver transplantation in Europe.....	57
Fig. (7):	The number of patients with recurrence of HCC.....	142
Fig. (8):	Relation between number of tumor nodules and recurrence of HCC.....	149
Fig. (9):	Showing Sensitivity & Specificity of Alpha fetoprotein in recurrence Of HCC after OLT.....	150

List of Abbreviations

Abb.	Full term
AAH	Acute alcoholic hepatitis
AASLD.....	American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
AFP	alpha-fetoprotein
AIH	Autoimmune hepatitis
ALG.....	Anti-lymphocyte polyclonal antibodies
ARID2	AT-Rich Interaction Domain containing protein 2
ATG.....	Anti-thymocyte polyclonal antibodies
AZA.....	Azathioprine
BCLC	Barcelona-Clínic Liver Cancer
BCS.....	Budd–Chiari syndrome
beta-hCG	Beta human chorionic gonadotrophin
BMI.....	Body mass index
CAD	Coronary artery disease
CMV.....	Cytomegalovirus
CNIs.....	Calcineurin inhibitors
CsA.....	Cyclosporine
CT	Computerized tomography
DCD	Donation after cardiac death
DCP.....	Des-gamma-carboxy prothrombin
DEB	Drug-Eluting Beads
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
EASL.....	European association for the study of the liver
ECOG.....	Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group
ELTR	European Liver Transplant Registry
ERCP	Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatogram
ESRD	End-stage renal disease

List of Abbreviations (cont...)

Abb.	Full term
EST.....	Endodermal sinus tumor
EVR.....	Everolimus
FDA.....	Food and Drug Administration
GFR.....	Glomerular filtration rate
HAV	Hepatitis A virus
HBeAg.....	Hepatitis B virus e antigen
HBIG.....	Hepatitis B immunoglobulin
HBV	Hepatitis B virus
HCC	Hepatocellular carcinoma
HCV	Hepatitis C virus
HDV	Hepatitis D virus
HH	Hereditary haemochromatosis
HHV-8.....	Human herpes virus 8
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
HMG-CoA	3-hydroxy-3-methyl-glutaryl coenzyme A
HPS.....	Hepatopulmonary syndrome
HSV-1	Herpes simplex virus 1
HSV-2	Herpes simplex virus 2
HVPG.....	Hepatic venous pressure gradient ()
IBD.....	Inflammatory bowel disease
ICU	Intensive care unit
IFN.....	Interferon
IMPDH	Inosine monophosphate dehydrogenase
IQR	Interquartile range
IVC.....	In ferior vena cava
LDLT	Living donor liver transplantation
LT.....	Liver transplantation
MDRD6 formula.....	Modification of Diet in Renal Disease 6

List of Abbreviations (cont...)

Abb.	Full term
MELD	Model for End-Stage Liver Disease
METAVIR.....	Meta-analysis of Histological Data in Viral Hepatitis
MMF	Mycophenolate mofetil
MPAP.....	Mean pulmonary artery pressure
MR	Magnetic resonance
MSAFP	Maternal serum AFP
NAFLD	Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease
NASH.....	Nonalcoholic steatohepatitis
NMR	Nuclear magnetic resonance
NUCs	Nucleos(t)ide analogues
OLT.....	Orthotopic liver transplantation
PBC.....	Primary biliary cholangitis
PDGFRs.....	Platelet-derived growth factor receptor
PegIFN.....	Peginterferon
PEI.....	Percutaneous ethanol injection
PET	Positron emission tomography
PH1	Primary hyperoxaluria type 1
PIKCA.....	Phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase catalytic subunit
PIVKA II.....	Prothrombin induced by Vitamin K Absence II
PPD.....	Purified protein derivative
PPHTN	Portopulmonary hypertension
PROM	premature rupture of membranes
PSC	Primary sclerosing cholangitis
PT.....	Prothrombin Time
PTLD	Post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorders
PVT	Portal vein thrombosis

List of Abbreviations (cont...)

Abb.	Full term
QoL	Quality of life
RBV.....	Ribavirin
RCT.....	Randomized controlled trial
RFA.....	Radiofrequency ablation
RNA	Ribonucleic acid
SRL	Sirolimus
SVR.....	Sustained virological response
T bili.....	Total bilirubin
Tac	Tacrolimus
TACE	Transcatheter arterial chemoembolization
TE	Elastography
TGF- β	Transforming growth factor beta
TIPS.....	Transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt
UCSF	University of California San Francisco criteria
UNOS	United Network for Organ Sharing
US	Ultrasonography
VDRL	Venereal disease research laboratory
VEGFRs.....	Vascular endothelial growth factor receptors
VZV	Varicella zoster virus

INTRODUCTION

Liver cancer is currently one of the leading causes of cancer death worldwide. Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) accounts for approximately 90% of all primary liver cancers and it is the fifth most common cancer worldwide (*Torre et al., 2012*).

Cirrhosis is the main risk factor for developing HCC, with chronic hepatitis B virus and C virus (HCV) infection and, more recently, non- alcoholic fatty liver disease as the major causes of cirrhosis (*Alexander et al., 2013*).

The American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases recommends that patients with cirrhosis undergo abdominal ultrasound every 6 months for surveillance of HCC (*Bruix and Sherman, 2011*).

Currently, the observation of isolated alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) levels is considered unsuitable for HCC screening, surveillance, and diagnosis because of its low sensitivity and specificity (*Biselli et al., 2015*).

Liver transplantation (LT) is the best available treatment modality for HCC. Patients who meet the Milan criteria and undergo transplantation have an estimated 5-year recurrence-free survival rate of approximately 83% (*Mazzaferro et al., 1996*).

The primary objective of patient selection criteria is to detect advanced disease, which causes early recurrence and treatment failure. The best predictors for tumor staging can only be obtained after OLT by histologic examination of the explanted liver for vascular invasion, degree of differentiation, and the presence of satellite nodules (*Parfitt et al., 2007*).

The value of an elevated pretransplantation AFP level as a predictor of poor prognosis has been increasingly recognized in recent studies (*Hakeem et al., 2014*).

Therefore, although the significance of AFP levels in nontransplanted patients remains debatable, support is mounting for the utility of this marker in transplant candidates with HCC and for its impact on transplant outcomes (*Vibert et al., 2012*).

AIM OF THE STUDY

The aim of this study is to assess pretransplantation AFP level as a risk factor for post-transplant HCC recurrence.