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The outcome of intrahepatic cholangiocaricinoma and combined hepatocellular carcinoma and cholangiocarcinoma after liver transplantation. Comparision with hepatocellular carcinoma

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Background: Intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma (I-CC) and combined hepatocellular carcinoma and cholangiocarcinoma (HCC-CC) are increasingly being reported in patients with cirrhosis. The aim of this study were to evaluate the incidence, and post-transplantation outcomes for patients who underwent liver transplantation for hepatocellualr carcinoma (HCC) and were found to have HCC-CC or I-CC in the explants and to compare the outcomes of these patients with those of controls with HCC who were matched by the tumor size and the number of nodules in the explants.

Methods: In the explants speciment of 7 of 863 patients who underwent liver transplantation for HCC, I-CC or HCC-CC was identified. The baseline characteristics, tumor characteristics and the outcome of liver transplantation was retrospectively reviewed.

Results: There were 4 patients with HCC-CC and 3 with I-CC. CK19 staining was performed in 5 patients and was positive in all patients. After mean follow-up period of 24 months, tumor recurrence was observed in 28.5% of the patients (2/7) and all patients survived . All patients who had a recurrence had extrahepatic disease. Patients with HCC-CC had longer disease free survival <27 months(15-74 months)> in comparison with patients with I-CC, but the difference did not reach statistical significance. The group with HCC-CC and I-CC had a significantly higher incidence of microvascular invasion in comparison with the control group with HCC (n=30). (p=0.016) The recurrence free survival rates at 6 month and 12 months were 83.3% and 66.7% in I-CC and HCC-CC group and 93.3% and 86.7% in the HCC group, but these differences were not statistically significant.

Conclusion: HCC-CC and I-CC are associated with frequent microvascular invasion, however they showed favorable outcomes after liver transplantation.

Key Words: Cholangiocarcinoman, Combined hepatocellular carcinoma and cholangiocarcinoma, Liver transplantation