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## The recurrence pattern and outcomes after resection of intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma

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**Introduction:** Recurrence is common after surgery for intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma (46.3~83.3%). After recurrence of intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma following resection, the prognosis is known to be dismal.

**Methods:** Between April 2001 and August 2010, 99 patients underwent hepatic resection for intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma. We analyzed the recurrence pattern and its outcomes after resection of intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma, retrospectively.

**Result:** The overall survival rates of the 99 patients at 1, 3, and 5 year were 72.7%, 53.6%, and 35.9%, respectively. Recurrences developed in the 70 of 99 patients. There were 49 men and 21 women, with a median age of 61 years. The median time from resection to recurrence was 7 months (range, 0~48 month). According to the first recurrence sites, 27 patients had intra-hepatic recurrence only (IH) and 43, with extra-hepatic recurrence (EH).

In the 27 patients of the IH group, the median time to recurrence was 8 months (range, 1~48 month). The median time from recurrence to death was 27 months (range, 0~99 months) and the 1-, 3- and 5-year survival rates since recurrence were 72.9%, 37.4%, and 32.8%, respectively. Among the 27 patients, 22 patients underwent surgical resection (4), TACE (9), TACE+RFA (2), TACE+CTx (1), RFA (1), CTx (4) and LDLT (1) for the recurred disease. After those treatments for the 22 patients, additional extra-hepatic recurrences developed in 5 patients, while 5 patients have been disease-free for 8~78 months since they underwent TACE (4) or RFA (1) for the recurred disease.

In the 43 patients of the EH group, the median to recurrence 6 months. (range, 0~34 month). The sites of recurrences included lymph nodes, peritoneum, lung and bone. Twenty-one of 43 patients had both intra- and extra-hepatic recurrences. Twenty-five patients underwent conservative therapy including CTx. (16), RTx. (6), TACE (4), RFA (2) and surgical resection (3). In the EH group, the median time from recurrence to death was 5 months (range, 0~66 months) and the 1-, 3- and 5-year survival rates since recurrence were 30.1%, 6%, and 0%, respectively.

**Conclusion:** As compared with the EH group, the IH group had better overall survival rates after recurrences. In some patients of the IH group, aggressive local treatments gave chances for another disease-free status.