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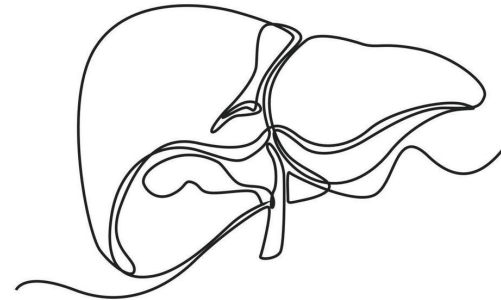


Hospital Universitario
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“Comparative Study between Liver Transplant Recipients Older and Younger than 70 years. A Call for Caution”

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INTRODUCTION

The existing controversy regarding the influence of the advanced age of the recipient on the outcomes of liver transplantation is exacerbated by the disproportion between the number of recipients and donors, leading to the obligation to distribute organs among potential recipients, prioritizing according to the needs of the patient and the cost-effectiveness, measured in terms of survival and quality of life.

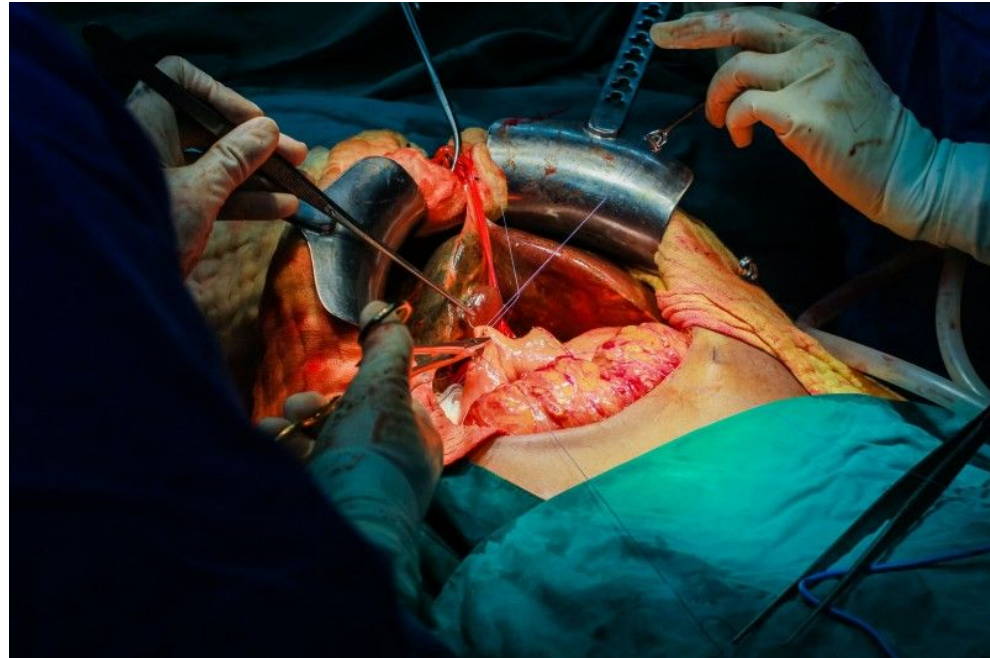


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MATERIALS AND METHODS:

- From January 1, 2014, to August 31, 2023, we performed 523 liver transplants.
- We selected a sample of 500 patients with follow-up until March 3, 2024, considering recipients older than 70 years (11 patients) and the remaining patients aged 69 years or less (489 patients).
- Pediatric recipients and those with multi-visceral transplants were excluded.



RESULTS:



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-**Preoperative prognostic scales** are significantly more **favorable in the older age group**. Younger recipients have presented fewer comorbidities, but smoking habits have been significantly more frequent.

-We found **no significant differences in etiology** between the groups.

-**Portal thrombosis rates were similar** between the groups. Donor characteristics were similar in both groups.



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RESULTS:

- Recipients **older than 70 years** had a **higher mortality rate** due to a higher incidence of early post-transplant complications.
- Actuarial survival of **older recipients was statistically inferior** to that of those under **70 years, at 1.3 and 5 years: 89.3%, 84.8%, and 82.5% in <70 years vs. 72.7%, 48.5%, and 48.5% in <70 years (p=0.008).**
- Causes of mortality are similar but **earlier and more frequent in the older age group**, with the recipient's age being statistically significant in multivariate analysis.



CONCLUSIONS

An actuarial survival of 48.5% raises questions about the indication for recipients over 70 years of age. The indication for such recipients should be *carefully selected*.

