

20-year survival expected for 4 out of 5 children who receive liver transplants

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A new study presented today shows that 20-year survival after childhood liver transplantation can be expected for almost 80% of patients. The study, presented at The International Liver Congress™ 2016 in Barcelona, Spain, shares long-term outcome data from medical records of children who received liver transplants over a five-year period, with a mean follow-up of 22 years.

Pediatric patients currently account for approximately 12.5% of liver transplant recipients¹ and in Europe approximately 6,973 people received a liver transplant in 2012.²

"Until now there has been no good answer as to how long children could be expected to live after liver transplantation," said Josefina Martinelli, Paediatric Liver Unit, AP-HP and lead author of the study. "While each child receiving a [transplant](#) is unique and every procedure is different, this study provides robust evidence on the average expected survival rates, an important consideration for the parents of children who undergo this complicated procedure."

The authors retrospectively analysed the medical records of 128 consecutive [children](#) who underwent cadaveric transplantation (whole [liver](#) n=47, partial n=77, split n=4) in Bicêtre Hospital, France from 1988 to 1993 at a median age of 2.5 years.

According to the study, patient survival rates recorded at five, 10, 15 and 20 years were 84%, 82%, 80% and 79%, while graft [survival rates](#) were

73%, 72%, 67% and 65% respectively. The most common complications experienced by patients were infection (59%), followed by acute (44%) and chronic (37%) rejection. Chronic kidney disease stage 2 or more was present in one third of patients. A total of 100 [patients](#) survived 20 years or more after transplantation.

"This study is evidence of the great progress the medical community is making as we continue to learn more about how the body deals with transplanted organs," says Professor Laurent Castera, EASL Secretary General.

More information: References:

1 Medscape. Paediatric Liver Transplantation. October 2015. Available from: emedicine.medscape.com/article/1012910-overview. Last accessed: March 2016.

2 European Commission. Journalist Workshop on Organ donation and transplantation Recent Facts & Figures. Available from: ec.europa.eu/health/blood_tiss...factsfigures_en.pdf. Last accessed: March 2016.

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