

# Learning curve length estimated for minimally invasive distal pancreatectomy

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The learning curve length for minimally invasive distal pancreatectomy

(MIDP) is estimated at 85 procedures for the primary textbook outcome (TBO), according to a study published online June 28 in *JAMA Surgery*.

Sanne Lof, M.D., Ph.D., from the University of Amsterdam, and colleagues examined the length of pooled learning curves for MIDP in experienced centers in a multicenter, [retrospective cohort study](#) including MIDP procedures performed from Jan. 1, 2006, through June 30, 2019, in 26 European centers from eight countries. The learning curve was assessed for the primary TBO, a composite measure reflecting optimal outcome and surgical mastery. For the secondary outcomes of operation time, intraoperative blood loss, conversion to open rate, and postoperative pancreatic fistula grade B/C, the learning curve was also assessed. The learning curve analysis was conducted on 2,041 procedures.

The researchers observed an increase and eventually a break point for TBO at 85 procedures, with the TBO rate plateauing at 70%. The estimated learning-associated loss of TBO rate was 3.3%. A break point was estimated at 40 procedures for [conversion](#), at 56 procedures for operation time, and at 71 procedures for intraoperative blood loss. No break point could be estimated for postoperative pancreatic fistula.

"Although MIDP is considered a valuable alternative to open distal pancreatectomy, our findings suggest that it may take extensive experience to master the learning curve," the authors write.

**More information:** Sanne Lof et al, Learning Curves of Minimally Invasive Distal Pancreatectomy in Experienced Pancreatic Centers, *JAMA Surgery* (2023). [DOI: 10.1001/jamasurg.2023.2279](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamasurg.2023.2279)

Melissa E. Hogg, The Surgeon, the Center, and the System—Several Styles to Stage Mastery, *JAMA Surgery* (2023). [DOI: 10.1001/jamasurg.2023.2290](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamasurg.2023.2290)

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