Reconstruction of hepatic artery with anatomical variation in liver transplantation

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[Abs] Objective To investigate the relation of hepatic artery and examine the anatomical reconstruction of hepatic artery with anatomical variations of liver transplantation.

Methods During the period of January 1998 to December 2005, we performed 127 consecutive liver transplantations in 124 patients (3 female; 121 male; mean age 60 years). A total of 288 hepatic arteries were observed. In 31 cases of 30 patients, the hepatic artery was not available for reconstruction; 257 cases of 124 patients had anatomical variation of hepatic artery and 28 cases of 24 patients had anatomical variation of portal vein. The variations of hepatic artery in donors were common. To obtain the ideal arterial supply of liver graft, appropriate pedicle reconstruction with microsurgical techniques is necessary.

[Key words] Liver transplantation, Variations of hepatic artery