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Impact of Donor-Specific Antibodies on Graft Fibrosis after Pediatric Living Donor Liver

Transplantation for Biliary Atresia

Meeting Name: CAST 2015

**Abstract** 

Pediatric living donor liver transplant (LDLT) patients sometimes develop graft fibrosis

after non-recurrent diseases such as biliary atresia (BA). Donor-specific antibodies

(DSA) have recently been shown to play a possible role in graft damage after liver

transplantation. We report the impact of DSA on pediatric LDLT for BA patients.

Materials & Methods

Patients under age 18 who received LDLT for BA at our institution and who

had at least 5 years' follow-up were identified, and 23 were eventually enrolled in this

study. Pathological findings were assessed using the last available biopsy. Patients were

divided in two groups, DSA positive and negative. Graft fibrosis after LDLT were assessed

according to DSA groups.

Results

The mean patient age at transplant was 2.6 years. The mean time to the last available

biopsy after LDLT was 8.2 years (4.8–15.6 years); 6 patients (26%) showed no fibrosis,

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while fibrosis was graded as F1, F2, or F3 in 8 (35%) 8 (35%), and 1 patients, respectively. DSA were observed in 12 patients (52%). Moderate graft fibrosis (F2 and F3) was found in 7 (58%) of the DSA-positive group, but only 2 (18%) of the DSA-negative group, showing a stastically significant difference (P < 0.05). Pre-transplant cross-matching was performed in 17 patients. The 2 patients with a positive cross-match were DSA positive. Six cross-match-negative patients developed  $de\ novo$  DSA after LDLT.

## Conclusions

Graft fibrosis was observed after LDLT for BA during long-term follow-up, more commonly in DSA-positive patients. DSA may play a role in fibrosis formation.