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Comparison Of Clinical Outcomes Between Minimally Invasive (laparoscopic And Robotic) And Open Extended Cholecystectomy

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Background: Minimally invasive surgery (MIS), both laparoscopic and robotic surgery for gallbladder cancer (GBC) has rapidly increased recently, however, there is a lack of large multicenter studies of its safety and long-term outcome. This study was undertaken to determine the feasibility of MIS-extended cholecystectomy for GBC and compare it with conventional open surgery.

Methods: Patients diagnosed with clinically suspected GBC who underwent extended cholecystectomy (EC) from 2007 to 2020 in 3 large volume hepatobiliary centers were studied. EC was defined as a wedge resection of liver bed including cholecystectomy and regional lymphadenectomy. Clinicopathologic data of O–EC and MIS–EC was analyzed and propensity score matching was performed to compare the short–term and long–term outcomes. Subgroup analysis of laparoscopic and robotic surgery was evaluated.

Results: A total of 377 patients were included, O–EC and MIS–EC group (laparoscopic EC: 40, robotic EC: 29) were 308 and 69 patients, respectively. Though MIS–EC group had a longer operative time (188.9 vs 238.1 minutes, p(0.001), shorter length of hospital stay (9.0 vs7.2 days, p=0.007), there was no difference in operative blood loss, complication rate, 30–day mortality rate. More lymph nodes were retrieved in O–EC (8.5 vs 7.1, p=0.044) and there was no significant difference in 3–year overall survival. In subgroup analysis of MIS–EC, laparoscopic EC had longer operative time (264.4 vs 202.0 min, p=0.001), however, other perioperative outcomes and 3–year survival outcomes were comparable.

Conclusions: MIS-EC is feasible with advantages of decreased length of stay and comparable survival to O-EC in GBC. Both laparoscopic and robotic EC had comparable perioperative and oncologic outcomes so it can be chosen according to the preference of the surgeon.

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