

## Comments on Bonney *et al.* "Outcomes on right liver lobe transplantation: a match pair analysis" (*Transpl. Int.* 2008; 21: 1045–1051)

### Technical details matter

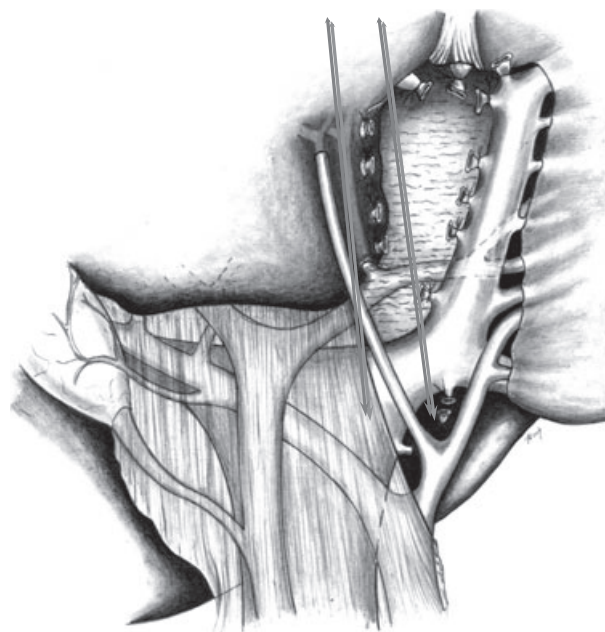
doi:10.1111/j.1432-2277.2008.00813.x

The Leeds transplantation group should be commended for their very thorough and honest report of results of split livers. As one of few publications in this field, they have given a precise description of their technique of splitting the liver. By cutting the parenchyma one centimetre to the right of the falciform ligament (like some other teams seem to do) they inevitably destroy the arterial supply of segment IV and cut or devascularize the segment IV bile duct. In my view, this is the explanation for the higher rate of biliary leaks at the parenchymal surface.

Detailed information on the direct and indirect causes of graft and patient loss is missing so that it is difficult to estimate whether they are related to the technique or to local complications.

The Hamburg experience showed similar problems until the performance of the in-situ technique prompted us to use an extraglissonian approach and to transect the hilar plate precisely at the level of the umbilical ligament (like in living donation). Subsequently, using the same technique, ex-situ splitting showed to provide similar good results. The experience at the University of Ghent further confirms this with only one biliary leak in 22 extended right split-liver grafts (Fig. 1).

In conclusion, biliary complications may be a considerable factor of morbidity and even graft loss in split-liver transplantation. Technical details may be decisive in the results of this procedure and explain the differences in results between different (experienced) teams!



**Figure 1** Two possible lines of trans-section used by different teams in split-liver transplantation.

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[Correction added after publication 31 March 2009: the title, Comment on outcomes in right liver lobe transplantation: a matched pair analysis by G. K. Bonney *et al.* in *Transplant International* 21 (2008) 1045–1051 was corrected to Comments on Bonney *et al.* "Outcomes on right liver lobe transplantation: a match pair analysis" (*Transpl. Int.* 2008; 21: 1045–1051)]