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Retrospective study

Iatrogenic bile duct injury with loss of confluence

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Abstract

AIM: One of the most feared types of injury is that which involves the biliary confluence (Bismuth IV, Strasberg E-4). The injury that produces two separated right and left ducts is of multifactorial etiology, and may be the result of ischemic or thermal damage, an inflammatory reaction, or anatomical variants that predispose the patient to injury. The treatment options are many, mainly surgical. Here we describe our experience with this type of injury.

METHODS: In an 18-year period, among 603 patients referred to our hospital for surgical treatment of complex bile duct injuries, 53 presented involvement of the hilar confluence classified as Strasberg E4 injuries. Imagenological studies, mainly MRI showed a loss of confluence. The files of these patients were analyzed and general data were recorded, including type of operation and postoperative outcome with emphasis on postoperative cholangitis, liver function test and quality of life. The mean time of follow-up was of 55.9 ± 52.9 months (median=38.5, minimum=2, maximum=181.2). All

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