Reviewer’s report

Title: Intrahepatic bile duct exploration lithotomy is a useful adjunctive hepatectomy method for bilateral primary hepatolithiasis: An eight-year experience at a single centre

Version: 0 Date: 04 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Elena Arabadzhieva

Reviewer's report:

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The manuscript is very promising. It is discussing a rare disease in Western countries, so the number of studied patients is substantial, even if the condition is endemic in the Asia-Pacific region. The used surgical technique is very interesting, too. However, I have several concerns about this article:

1/ There are several discrepancies in reported numbers. For example, in the abstract, it is written that 14 patients (25%) developed complications, but in the Result section and Table 2, it is mentioned that complication rate is 26.8% (15 cases). In the text - 7 of 52 patients have recurrent disease, but in Table 3 they are 7 of 51 cases.

2/ The design of the study is not clear to me. It is written that it is retrospective, but how is it possible a retrospective study to be funded; it is mentioned "at the end of the study" - how is the end of follow-up determined? Maybe the study has a prospective collection of the patients and a retrospective analysis of the data.

3/ The inclusion and exclusion criteria are not clear. It is mentioned only that the patients with concomitant cholangiocarcinoma are excluded.

4/ The description of the whole procedure should be improved. For example, what happens with the traction sutures after IHBDIL, how deep are they placed?

5/ The postoperative results and follow-up could be presented more precisely. There is no information about the liver function; what happened with the treated with IHBDIL liver segments - % of atrophy, for example?

6/ The English should be improved.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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