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Prognostic analysis of hepatocellular carcinoma greater than 5 cm in diameter after curative resection

Jae Do YANG, Hee Chul YU*

Surgery, Chonbuk National University Hospital, Korea

Introduction: This study aimed to evaluate the impact of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) greater than 5cm to the recurrence pattern and the prognosis after hepatectomy.

Methods: 55 patients who underwent hepatectomy (Open 47 and Laparoscopic 8) for HCC>5cm without major vascular invasion from 2008 to 2018 at single institute were retrospectively analyzed. We divided two groups such as 5cm <HCC<10cm or huge HCC≥10cm (hHCC)

Results: The level of alpha-feto protein and PIVKA with 5cm<HCC<10cm(n=44) (1369ng/ml and 3278mAU/ml) were lower than those of patients with hHCC(n=11) (19128ng/ml and 3761mAU/ml). Pathologically, hHCC showed more frequent than 5cm<HCC <10cm with microvessel and intrahepatic invasion (100 and 55% versus 71.8 and 25%). The overall survival and DFS (disease free survival) of patients with hHCC (38 and 20.2 months) were significantly worse than those of patients with 5cm<HCC <10 cm (40.25 and 22.8 months). The intra/extra hepatic recurrence rate showed 36%(16), 2%(1) with 5cm<HCC<10cm and 27%(3),27%(3) with hHCC. Both group has an independent risk factor for extra-hepatic recurrence (Hazard ratio 7.86, P < 0.005). The DFS of patients with extra-hepatic recurrence was worse than patients with intra-hepatic recurrence. (13.3 and 14.6 months).

Conclusions: In our study, the extra-hepatic recurrence is an independent risk factor in HCC greater than 5cm in diameter. Especially, hHCC has higher rate of extra-hepatic recurrence and lower DFS.

Corresponding Author.: **Hee Chul YU** (hcyu@jbnu.ac.kr)