

New medical books

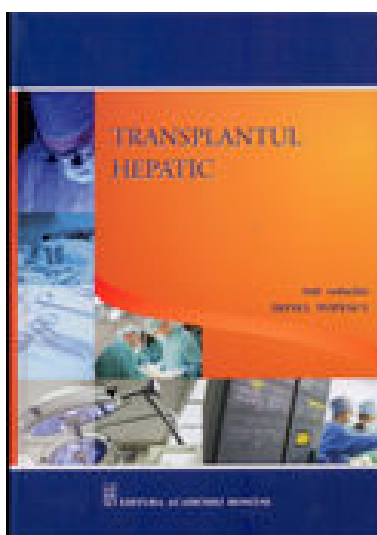
“TRANSPLANTUL HEPATIC”

Edithor: Irinel POPESCU

President of the Academy of Medical Sciences, Romania
President of the Medical Sciences Section of the Academy of Romanian Scientists

Romanian Academy Publishing House, 2011

by Mihnea IONESCU, PhD, MD



Liver Transplant textbook represents the most recent work of the group from Fundeni Clinical Institute, involved in the liver transplant activity. The textbook reflects primarily the experience gained in the field of liver transplantation (more than 300 liver transplants), by the group coordinated by Professor Irinel Popescu, edithor of the book. Authors are coming from the field of surgery, gastroenterology and hepatology, radiology, intensive care, pediatrics and pathology. Actually, the authors are the main physicians involved in the liver transplant program at Fundeni Clinical Institute, Bucharest.

The textbook is grouped in five sections: introduction, pretransplant evaluation of the patients, surgical technique, postoperative outcome and, finally, histopathological and immuno-suppressant aspects of

the liver transplant.

In the introductive part, Professor Irinel Popescu presents a short history of the liver transplant in Romania, not forgetting to emphasize the important role of the predecessors (like Professor Dan Setlacec, former Head of the Department of Surgery) in preparing the steps from experimental activity to clinical practice. Afterwards, an important part is dedicated to the anatomy of the liver, highlighting the Brisbane terminology and the details of anatomy of the hepatic artery, portal vein and biliary tract (with the normal course and the variants). This part of the textbook ends with the presentation of the basics in immunology, also an important aspect of the liver transplant.

The second part of the textbook is dedicated to the preoperative work up of the patients, potentially suitable for a liver transplant. The first two chapters present the indications, contraindications and patients' selection for liver transplant followed by the scoring systems assessing the priority and prognostic of the patients. Child-Pugh score is widely used for disease severity assessment, but MELD score (Model for End-stage Liver Disease) has been proven to be a more reliable predictor. A distinct chapter is reserved

for the indications, contraindications and evaluation of the pediatric patients. Another chapter presents the ethical aspects of the liver transplant, an important issue related to deceased donor, living donor and graft allocation. An important part is dedicated to the management of the patients with cirrhosis, on the waiting list for liver transplant. Preoperative bacteriological screening of the patients potentially suitable for a transplant is presented in another chapter. The next two chapters are dealing with the imaging of the liver transplant and the role of digestive endoscopy. The radiology in liver transplant is particularly important in preoperative work up of the patients (living donors and recipients), but also in the intraoperative assessments of the vascular anastomoses. Nevertheless, there is a tremendous role of the imagery in the evaluation of the post transplant complications. The last two chapters of the second part of the textbook present the preoperative evaluation of the patients in the intensive care unit and the anesthesia in liver transplant. Thus, a significant part is dedicated to the evaluation and management of the acute liver failure.

The third part of the textbook is reserved for the surgical technique of the liver transplant. The first chapter is dedicated to the deceased donor liver transplantation focusing on the deceased donor management, liver harvesting from a deceased donor and whole liver transplant technique. The next chapter presents the split and reduced size liver transplant techniques. The last chapter of the third part is dedicated to the living donor liver transplantation. Thus, first, it is presented the selection, management and postoperative follow up of the liver donor, highlighting the importance of the safety of the living liver donor. Next paragraphs present the living donor liver transplantation technique from an adult to a child and the technique of right lobe liver transplant in adults. The last paragraph is dedicated to the domino liver transplant. On notice that the chapters dedicated to liver transplant techniques are nicely illustrated with original pictures from the iconography of the *Center of General Surgery and Liver Transplantation*, reflecting the important expertise of the authors.

The fourth part of the textbook is reserved for the postoperative outcome after liver transplant, including the early and late complications. The first chapter is dedicated to the intensive care support after liver transplant. Immediate postoperative graft dysfunctions and small for size syndrome are presented in the following chapters. Afterwards, there are presented aspects regarding the hyper acute, acute and chronic reject. Early and late biliary complications after liver transplant are presented in two distinct chapters. An important space is reserved for the neurological and medical complications after liver transplant. This part of the textbook ends with aspects related to the diseases recurrence after liver transplant (virus B and C recurrence, malignant recurrence etc).

The last part of the textbook is dedicated to the histopathological aspects of the liver transplant and immunosuppressant.

In summary, the textbook *Liver Transplant* represents an important event in the Romanian medical scientific activity and should be included in the armamentarium of every physician dealing with patients with end-stage liver diseases.

Associate Professor MIHNEA IONESCU,

University of Medicine and Pharmacy, "Carol Davila", Bucharest