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Review on the impact and risk factors for conversion during minimally invasive pancreatoduodenectomy and distal pancreatectomy

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Minimally invasive pancreatoduodenectomy (MI-PD) and minimally invasive distal pancreatectomy (MI-DP) are being increasingly adopted in high-volume centers. Minimally invasive pancreatic resection (MI-PR) is associated with decreased time to functional recovery, shorter hospital stay and decreased intraoperative blood loss, and it is a cost-effective procedure; MI-PR also has comparable oncological outcomes when compared to open pancreatic resection (OPR). Nevertheless, the safety and feasibility of MI-PR may be questioned given the high conversion rate, especially in patients with high-risk factors and early adopters. Laparoscopic and robotic approaches remain the two most widely used platforms, and robotic approaches are associated with reductions in conversion to laparotomy compared to laparoscopic approaches. Published rates of conversion to an open procedure during MI-PR vary from 0% to 40% for MI-PDs and from 0% to 36% for MI-DPs. Conversion might worsen surgical outcomes and nullify the potential benefits of the minimally invasive approach, thereby highlighting the importance of identifying potential preoperative and intraoperative risk factors for conversion as well as the importance of careful patient selection when considering patients suitable for MI-PR. Data on factors predicting conversion and the impact of conversion on patient outcomes after MI-PR have been reported in several comparative studies. Among these studies, the majority has illustrated that conversion is independently associated with worse outcomes; however, several studies have reported that conversion during MI-PR itself is not associated with worse outcomes. The review will summarize the impact of conversion on outcomes and identify risk factors predictive of conversion during MI-PD and MI-DP.

Biography

Zhenlu Li has completed his MD at the age of 29 years from Sichuan University. He is the secretary of minimally invasive surgery association of Chinese Medical Association. He has published 5 papers as first or co-first author in reputed journals