

# Liver Transplantation in Rigshospitalet, Denmark :

## —Our experience of 37 cases—

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**Abstract :** Background : Liver transplantation has become an established treatment for patients with end-stage liver disease. The aim of this study is to analyze the results of liver transplantation and also describe the current state of liver transplantation in Denmark.

Patients : All patients receiving liver transplantation in Denmark between May 2002 and February 2003 were included.

Results : A total of 47 cases had been placed on a list to undergo liver transplantation from May 2002 to February 2003. Of these 2 patients died while on the waiting list. Thirty-seven liver transplantations have been performed. Twenty-nine (78.4%) cases were cases of elective transplantation. Eight (21.6%) patients underwent an urgent transplantation due to acute hepatic failure and coma. Thirty-five patients received transplantation using a cadaveric donor liver, and 2 cases were living-donor liver transplantations. The median waiting time for electively listed patients was 62 days. Thirty-one patients received a first liver allograft. The mean age of these patients was 40.6 years (range : 0-64). Four of the patients were children (range : 10 months-2 years old). One patient was older than 60 years. The male-to-female ratio was 20 : 11. The three most frequent diagnoses indicating the need for liver transplantation were alcoholic liver cirrhosis (25.8%), acute hepatic failure (12.9%), and cryptogenic liver cirrhosis (9.7%). Six of 37 patients underwent second-time transplantations due to hepatic artery thrombosis, primary non-function, and disease recurrence. The survival rate at 30 days was 94.6%. Sixteen patients (43.2%) had postoperative complications following liver transplantation. The main postoperative complications were pneumonia (18.9%), acute renal failure (16.2%), hepatic artery thrombosis (10.8%), and biliary complications (10.8%).

Conclusion : The waiting times for liver transplantation were short, and the death rates while awaiting a donor liver were low. The results of liver transplantation in Denmark are comparable to the results from other centers. The therapeutic system of liver transplantation in Denmark was thus found to work efficiently.

**Key words :** Liver transplantation, Transplantation activity, Organ procurement