



HAL
open science

Liver transplantation for autoimmune hepatitis: Pre-transplant does not predict the early post-transplant outcome

Yasmina Chouik, Claire Francoz, Eleonora de Martin, Olivier Guillaud,
Armand Abergel, Mario Altieri, Louise Barbier, Camille Besch, Olivier
Chazouillères, Filomena Conti, et al.

► To cite this version:

Yasmina Chouik, Claire Francoz, Eleonora de Martin, Olivier Guillaud, Armand Abergel, et al.. Liver transplantation for autoimmune hepatitis: Pre-transplant does not predict the early post-transplant outcome. *Liver International*, 2023, 43 (4), pp.906-916. 10.1111/liv.15500 . hal-04166795

HAL Id: hal-04166795

<https://hal.science/hal-04166795v1>

Submitted on 29 May 2024


HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.



Distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution - NonCommercial - NoDerivatives 4.0
International License

Liver transplantation for autoimmune hepatitis: Pre-transplant does not predict the early post-transplant outcome

Yasmina Chouik^{1,2}  | Claire Francoz³  | Eleonora De Martin⁴ | Olivier Guillaud¹ | Armand Abergel⁵ | Mario Altieri⁶ | Louise Barbier⁷ | Camille Besch⁸ | Olivier Chazouillères⁹ | Filomena Conti¹⁰ | Christophe Corpechot⁹ | Sébastien Dharancy¹¹ | François Durand³ | Christophe Duvoux¹²  | Jean Gugenheim¹³ | Jean Hardwigen¹⁴ | Marie-Noëlle Hilleret¹⁵ | Pauline Houssel-Debry¹⁶ | Nassim Kamar¹⁷ | Anne Minello¹⁸ | Martine Neau-Cransac¹⁹ | Georges-Philippe Pageaux²⁰  | Sylvie Radenne² | Olivier Roux³ | Faouzi Saliba⁴ | Didier Samuel⁴  | Claire Vanlemmens²¹ | Marie-Lorraine Woehl-Jaegle⁸ | Vincent Leroy¹⁵ | Jean-Charles Duclos-Vallée⁴ | Jérôme Dumortier¹ 

¹Hospices civils de Lyon, Hôpital Edouard Herriot, et Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1, Lyon, France

²Service d'Hépatogastroentérologie, Hospices civils de Lyon, Hôpital de la Croix Rousse, Lyon, France

³Service d'Hépatologie et Transplantation Hépatique, APHP, Hôpital Beaujon, Université Paris Diderot, INSERM U1149, Clichy, France

⁴Centre Hépatobiliaire, Centre de Référence Maladies Inflammatoires des Voies Biliaires et Hépatites Auto-immunes, Inserm Unité 1193, AP-HP Hôpital Paul-Brousse, Université Paris-Saclay, FHU Hépatinov, Villejuif, France

⁵CHU Estaing, Médecine digestive, Institut Pascal., UMR 6602 UCA CNRS SIGMA, Clermont-Ferrand, France

⁶Service d'Hépatogastroentérologie, Nutrition et Oncologie Digestive, Hôpital Côte de Nacre, Caen, France

⁷Service de chirurgie digestive, oncologique et endocrinienne, Transplantation hépatique, Hôpital Trousseau, CHU Tours, Tours, France

⁸Service de chirurgie hépatobilio-pancréatique et transplantation hépatique, CHRU Hautepierre, Strasbourg, France

⁹Centre de Recherche Saint-Antoine, Centre de référence des maladies inflammatoires des voies biliaires et des hépatites auto-immunes, Filière de santé FILFOIE, Hôpital Saint-Antoine, Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris (AP-HP), INSERM UMRS 938, Sorbonne Université, Paris, France

¹⁰Service de Chirurgie Digestive et Hépatobiliaire, Transplantation Hépatique, AP-HP Hôpital Pitié Salpêtrière, Paris, France

¹¹Service d'hépatologie, CHRU Lille, Hôpital Claude Huriez, Lille, France

¹²Service d'hépatologie, APHP, Hôpital Henri Mondor, Créteil, France

¹³Service de Chirurgie Digestive et de Transplantation Hépatique, Hôpital universitaire de Nice, Université de Nice-Sophia-Antipolis, Nice, France

¹⁴Service chirurgie générale et transplantation hépatique, APHM, Hôpital La Timone, Marseille, France

¹⁵Service d'hépatogastroentérologie, CHU Grenoble-Alpes, INSERM U1209-Université Grenoble-Alpes, La Tronche, France

¹⁶Service d'Hépatologie et Transplantation hépatique, Hôpital Universitaire de Pontchaillou, Rennes, France

¹⁷Département de Néphrologie et Transplantation d'Organes, CHU Rangueil, Toulouse, France

¹⁸Service d'Hépatogastroentérologie et oncologie digestive, CHU Dijon, Inserm EPICAD LNC-UMR1231, Université de Bourgogne-Franche Comté, Dijon, France

¹⁹Service de Chirurgie hépatobiliaire et de transplantation hépatique, CHU de Bordeaux, Hôpital Haut Lévêque, Bordeaux, France

²⁰Département d'hépatologie et transplantation hépatique, CHU Saint Eloi, Montpellier, France

²¹Service d'Hépatologie et Soins Intensifs Digestifs, Hôpital Jean Minjot, Besançon, France

Abbreviations: ACLF, acute-on-chronic liver failure; AIH, autoimmune hepatitis; AKI, acute kidney injury; AMA, anti-mitochondrial antibodies; ANA, antinuclear antibodies; Anti-LKM1, liver/kidney microsomal antibody type 1; AZA, azathioprine; BMI, body mass index; CI, confidence interval; CLD, chronic liver disease; CNI, calcineurin inhibitor; HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; HLA, human leukocyte antigen; HR, hazard ratio; ICU, intensive care unit; IL-2, interleukin-2; IQR, interquartile range; LT, liver transplantation; MMF, mycophenolate mofetil; OR, odds ratio; PBC, primary biliary cholangitis; PSC, primary sclerosing cholangitis; SD, standard deviation; SMA, smooth muscle antibodies.

This is an open access article under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/) License, which permits use and distribution in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited, the use is non-commercial and no modifications or adaptations are made.

© 2022 The Authors. *Liver International* published by John Wiley & Sons Ltd.

Correspondence

Yasmina Chouik, Service d'Hépatologie,
Hôpital de la Croix Rousse, 103 Gd Rue de
la Croix-Rousse, 69004 Lyon, France.
Email: yasmina.chouik@inserm.fr

Jérôme Dumortier, Pavillons D et L,
Hôpital Edouard Herriot, 69437 Lyon
Cedex 03, France.
Email: jerome.dumortier@chu-lyon.fr

Funding information

Fondation Léon Bouchut

Handling Editor: Alejandro Forner

Abstract

Background and Aims: Autoimmune hepatitis (AIH) is a rare indication (<5%) for liver transplantation (LT). The aim of this study was to describe the early outcome after LT for AIH.

Methods: A multicenter retrospective nationwide study including all patients aged ≥ 16 transplanted for AIH in France was conducted. Occurrences of biliary and vascular complications, rejection, sepsis, retransplantation and death were collected during the first year after LT.

Results: A total of 344 patients (78.8% of women, 17.0% of (sub)fulminant hepatitis and 19.2% of chronic liver diseases transplanted in the context of acute-on-chronic liver failure [ACLF]) were included, with a median age at LT of 43.6 years. Acute rejection, sepsis, biliary and vascular complications occurred in respectively 23.5%, 44.2%, 25.3% and 17.4% of patients during the first year after LT. One-year graft and patient survivals were 84.3% and 88.0% respectively. The main cause of early death was sepsis. Pre-LT immunosuppression was not associated with an increased risk for early infections or surgical complications. Significant risk factors for septic events were LT in the context of (sub)fulminant hepatitis or ACLF, acute kidney injury at the time of LT (AKI) and occurrence of biliary complications after LT. AKI was the only independent factor associated with graft (HR = 2.5; 95% CI: 1.1–5.4; $p = .02$) and patient survivals (HR = 2.6; 95% CI: 1.0–6.5; $p = .04$).

Conclusion: Early prognosis is good after LT for AIH and is not impacted by pre-LT immunosuppression but by the presence of AKI at the time of LT.

KEYWORDS

early infection, fulminant hepatitis, immunosuppression, sepsis, survival

1 | INTRODUCTION

Autoimmune hepatitis (AIH) is a chronic inflammatory liver disease that can lead to acute liver failure or cirrhosis. First-line medical therapy is based on corticosteroids (CST) and azathioprine (AZA)¹ and is efficient in the vast majority of patients. However, in the case of decompensated cirrhosis, hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) or cortico-resistant acute or sub-acute liver failure, liver transplantation (LT) may be the only option; it is estimated that around 10% of patients suffering from AIH will require LT during their life.^{2–4} LT for AIH (AIH-LT) raises several specific issues in the early postoperative period. Notably, this population includes a large part of patients transplanted in the context of fulminant liver failure, which is known to be associated with a higher risk of early mortality.^{5,6} In this setting, infection is one of the leading causes of early mortality whatever the initial liver disease.^{7,8} A higher risk of fatal infections in patients undergoing AIH-LT compared to primary biliary cholangitis (PBC) has been reported, especially within the first 3 months after LT.^{9,10} The impact of current and previous immunosuppressive therapies at the time of LT on these early-onset infectious episodes remains poorly understood and explored. In addition to infectious complications, a higher risk of acute rejection has been reported in

Key Points

- Management of autoimmune hepatitis (AIH) is based on immunosuppressive treatments and liver transplantation (LT) if needed.
- Patients undergoing LT for AIH frequently develop early septic complications after LT. The impact of pre-LT immunosuppression on septic complications and overall survival has not yet been elucidated.
- Here, we found that the main cause of early deaths after LT for AIH is sepsis, but pre-LT immunosuppression is not associated with an increased risk for early infections. Acute kidney injury at the time of LT is the main risk factor for both graft loss and death.

AIH-LT recipients,^{11,12} as disease recurrence¹³ or biliary and vascular complications, which are both major causes of graft loss following LT, especially hepatic artery thrombosis (HAT) and ischemic cholangiopathy.^{14–17} Finally, AIH-LT recipients are younger, more frequently women, and have very different co-morbidities when

compared to frequent indications for LT, that is, alcohol-related liver disease, viral hepatitis and non-alcoholic steatohepatitis.

Since risk factors for early postoperative complications and mortality have not been extensively elucidated yet, the present multicenter retrospective study from a large French nationwide cohort focused on early postoperative outcomes after AIH-LT in adults. Our aims were (1) to identify the prognostic factors for both 1-year patient and graft survivals, (2) to identify predictive factors for early complications after LT (namely sepsis, acute rejection, biliary and vascular complications) with specific attention on pre-LT immunosuppressive therapy.

2 | PATIENTS AND METHODS

2.1 | Study population

From the databases of the French *Agence de la Biomédecine* (ABM) and all French LT centres, were selected all patients aged 16 and older, transplanted for AIH in France from January 1985 to April 2018. This study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki, and no donor organs were obtained from executed prisoners or other institutionalized persons. According to French law (*Loi Jardé*), retrospective studies do not require Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval. Diagnosis of AIH was based on clinical and biological characteristics, histopathological examination of the explanted native liver, and if there was no evidence of other competing aetiology (excess alcohol consumption, chronic viral hepatitis, advanced steatohepatitis). Overlap syndromes (association of AIH and PBC or primary sclerosing cholangitis [PSC]) were included. PSC overlap diagnosis in AIH patients was established based on the presence of typical findings of sclerosing cholangitis on high-quality cholangiography, after the exclusion of secondary causes.¹⁸ PBC variant was diagnosed with persistent cholestatic abnormalities, histological findings of chronic non-suppurative, granulomatous, lymphocytic small bile duct cholangitis and presence of autoantibodies (anti-mitochondrial antibodies [AMA]), anti-sp100, anti-gp210.¹⁹ Indications for LT were a fulminant and subfulminant liver failure, end-stage autoimmune cirrhosis and/or HCC. (Sub)Fulminant liver failure was defined as a severe liver injury with the onset of hepatic encephalopathy within 12 weeks since the onset of jaundice in the absence of pre-existing liver disease. Acute-on-chronic liver failure (ACLF) was defined as an acute flare of pre-existing cirrhosis associated with organ failure(s) according to the Chronic Liver Failure-Sequential Organ Failure Assessment score.²⁰

2.2 | Clinical and laboratory assessments

Baseline demographic characteristics including age at diagnosis, other autoimmune disorders, the occurrence of HCC and portal hypertension complications were collected from medical records. Prior treatment to LT was determined, including duration and dose

of CST at the time of LT. Presence and titers of circulating antibodies (antinuclear antibodies [ANA], smooth muscle antibodies [SMA], and liver/kidney microsomal type 1 [anti-LKM1] and anti-liver cytosol type 1 [anti-LC1]) antibodies and levels of immunoglobulin G (IgG) were recorded. Type I AIH was defined by the presence of ANA and/or SMA, and type II by the presence of anti-LKM1 and/or anti-LC1. Acute kidney injury (AKI) at LT time was defined by serum creatinine following AKIN criteria (increase of ≥ 26.5 mmol/L or ≥ 1.5 -fold from baseline).²¹ Severity scores at the time of LT (Child-Pugh and MELD scores) were determined.

Donor characteristics included gender, age, body mass index (BMI) and serological human leukocyte antigen (HLA) typing. Donor/recipient mismatches in the HLA system were determined for the main loci A, B and DR. Presence of pre-transplant anti-HLA antibodies including donor-specific antibodies (DSA) was reported.

2.3 | Follow-up after liver transplantation

All patients received grafts (whole or partial) from cadaveric or living donors. The initial immunosuppressive regimen was defined as the treatment at the end of the hospitalization for LT, and was based on a calcineurin-inhibitor: cyclosporine (CYA) or tacrolimus (TAC), possibly combined with AZA or mycophenolate mofetil (MMF). Induction therapy by anti-interleukin-2 receptor antibodies was mainly administered in the case of AKI. Other types of induction therapies (antithymocyte globulins, OKT3, daclizumab, intravenous immunoglobulins) have been used infrequently. Starting on postoperative day 1, methylprednisolone was tapered to reach a maintenance dose of 0–5 mg/day at 6 months post-transplantation. Outpatient follow-up visits were usually ensured monthly during the first year after transplantation.

Incidences of infections, rejections, biliary and vascular complications after LT were reported. Infectious episodes were defined by sepsis that required hospitalization or resulted in significant morbidity or mortality. Diagnosis of rejection was based on histological examination and exclusion of other etiologies of liver damage, especially viral infections and drug toxicity. The rejection episode was classified according to the Banff grading system in use at the date of the liver biopsy.²² The end of follow-up corresponded to death or 1-year post-transplant evaluation.

2.4 | Statistical analysis

Data were described using median with interquartile range (IQR) or mean with standard deviation (SD) for continuous variables and number (percentage) for categorical variables. Age at LT and diagnosis was dichotomized at the median. To analyse the effect of LT time, patients were divided into three groups: LT before the year 1996, LT from 1996 to 2005 included and LT after the year 2006. LT centres were dichotomized at the median according to the number of patients included in the study, to define high-volume versus low-volume centres.

The following variables were analysed as risk factors for post-operative complications, early septic episodes and acute rejection: age (at diagnosis and LT), type of AIH, associated autoimmune diseases, pre-LT diabetes or arterial hypertension, pre-LT immunosuppression, Child-Pugh and MELD scores, the indication of LT, BMI, donor age and sex, donor-recipient age difference, cold ischemia time, type of LT, centre volume, initial immunosuppression after LT including induction treatment and occurrence of biliary or vascular complications after LT. Univariate and multivariate analyses of these variables were performed with binary logistic regression.

Patient survival was calculated from the date of LT to that of death or the 1-year clinical visit. Graft survival was calculated from the date of LT to that of retransplantation, death or 1-year visit if no retransplantation. Survival curves were constructed with the Kaplan–Meier method and compared with the log-rank test in univariate analysis. The Cox proportional hazards regression model was used in both univariate and multivariate models. All significant variables in the univariate analysis with a level set at $p < .10$ were incorporated into multivariate models. A p -value less than .05 was considered statistically significant. Statistical analyses were done using SPSS software, version 23.0 (IBM, Armonk, NY, USA).

3 | RESULTS

3.1 | Study population

The study population consisted of 344 patients; 78.8% were women with mainly type I AIH (Table 1). Forty-nine patients (14%) with overlap syndromes were included. The median age at LT was 43.6 years. The median duration of the disease before LT was 5.8 years. CST therapy was administered in the vast majority of patients with chronic liver diseases (83% of the cases) with a median duration of 4.0 years, and a mean dose of 21.7 mg/day at the time of LT. For fulminant and subfulminant liver failure, CST therapy was administered before LT in two-thirds of the cases, with a median duration of 15 days and a mean dose of 57.5 mg/day. Excluding (sub) fulminant liver presentations, 19.1% of patients with autoimmune cirrhosis required transplantation in the context of ACLF, with a median MELD score of 34 (IQR, 29–40). Initial immunosuppressive treatment after LT consisted of a combination of TAC, MMF and CST in the vast majority of the patients.

3.2 | Early surgical complications and infections

Biliary and vascular complications occurred in respectively 25.3% and 17.4% of the patients (Table 2). Pre-LT immunosuppression (type of immunosuppressive therapy, and dose and duration for CST therapy) and period of LT were not associated with the occurrence of early surgical complications (see Table S1).

TABLE 1 Clinical and biological characteristics of the study population ($n = 344$).

Gender (F/M)	271/73
Median age at LT (IQR)	43.6 years (30.3–54.8)
Type of AIH	
Type I	78.4% ($n = 236$)
Type II	10.3% ($n = 31$)
Seronegative	11.3% ($n = 34$)
Not available	$n = 43$
Overlap syndrome	14.2% ($n = 49$)
PSC	23
PBC	26
Other autoimmune disorders	27.6% ($n = 95$)
Treatment before LT	
Subfulminant/fulminant hepatitis	67.9% (38/56)
CST	15 days (7–30)
Median duration of CST (IQR)	29.8% (17/57)
AZA	1.8% (1/57)
CYA or TAC	1.8% (1/57)
MMF	82.6% (223/270)
Chronic liver diseases	4.0 years (1.0–10.0)
CST	61.6% (167/271)
Median duration of CST (IQR)	17.6% (48/272)
AZA	11.8% (32/272)
CYA or TAC	24.4% (66/271)
MMF	1.1% (3/272)
UDCA	0.7% (2/272)
Cyclophosphamide	1.5% (4/272)
Everolimus or sirolimus	
Methotrexate, rituximab, plasmapheresis, intravenous immunoglobulin	
Treatment at the time of LT	
Subfulminant/fulminant hepatitis	45.5% (25/55)
CST (prednisolone or budesonide)	57.5 mg/d (± 23.3)
Mean dose of CST (\pm SD)	17.5% (10/57)
AZA	56.1% (147/262)
Chronic liver diseases	21.7 mg/d (± 23.1)
CST	31.3% (84/268)
Mean dose of CST (\pm SD)	
AZA	
Median time from first symptoms to LT (IQR)	69.1 months (10.1–143.7)
Clinical features at the time of LT	
Jaundice	78.1% (261/334)
Coagulation disorder	69.8% (233/334)
Ascites	74.8% (250/334)
History of hepatic encephalopathy	49.3% (165/335)
AKI	16.1% (53/330)

(Continues)

TABLE 1 (Continued)

Portal vein thrombosis	10.8% (36/334)
Oesophageal varices	56.5% (186/329)
Portocaval anastomosis	7.5% (25/334)
Albumin dialysis	6.0% (20/331)
Mean BMI (kg/m ²) (±SD)	24.1 (±8.8)
Indication for LT	
Fulminant/subfulminant hepatitis	17.0% (58/341)
Liver cirrhosis	83.0% (283/341)
Acute-on-chronic liver failure	19.1% (54/283)
Hepatocellular carcinoma/ hepatocholangiocarcinoma	6.0% (17/283)
Not available	0.9% (3/344)
Median MELD score at LT (IQR)	22 (15–33)
Median Child-Pugh score at LT (IQR)	C11 (B8–C12)
Median IgG level (g/L) at LT (IQR)	18.9 (14.5–25.3)
Autoantibodies at LT	
ANA ≥ 1:40	69.7% (205/294)
SMA ≥ 1:40	53.7% (159/296)
LKM1 ≥ 1:40	9.2% (26/282)
LC1 ≥ 1:40	4.6% (13/282)
AMA ≥ 1:40	6.7% (19/292)
ANCA ≥ 1:20	49.1% (28/57)
HLA	
DR3 and/or DR4	66.9% (172/257)
B8	33.2% (88/265)
A1B8DR3	20.4% (54/265)
Median cold ischemia time (IQR)	494 min (380–601)
Donor characteristics	
Gender (F/M)	157/169
Median age (IQR)	45 (29–60)
Mean BMI (kg/m ²) (±SD)	23.9 (±3.9)
Type of graft	
Mean graft weight (g) (±SD)	1395 (±345)
Partial graft	25
Split LT (brain death donor)	16
Living donor LT	9
Combined transplantations	6
Liver-kidney transplantation	5
Liver-lung transplantation	1
Heterotopic LT	1
Induction therapy	
Lympho-depleting therapy (antithymocyte globulin or antilymphocyte serum)	8.7% (26/298)
IL-2 receptor antagonist	18.1% (54/298)
Other (OKT3, intravenous immunoglobulins...)	3.7% (11/298)

TABLE 1 (Continued)

Initial immunosuppressive treatment	
TAC	79.6% (265/333)
CYA	19.5% (65/333)
MMF	69.1% (230/333)
AZA	17.8% (59/332)
CST	99.1% (330/333)

Note: Data are shown as either n (%) or median (interquartile range) for continuous variables.

Abbreviations: AMA, anti-mitochondrial antibodies; ANA, antinuclear antibodies; AZA, azathioprine; BMI, body mass index; CYA, cyclosporine A; CST, corticosteroids; IgG, immunoglobulin G; IQR, interquartile range; IL-2, interleukin-2; LT, liver transplantation; MMF, mycophenolate mofetil; PBC, primary biliary cholangitis; PSC, primary sclerosing cholangitis; SD, standard deviation; SMA, smooth muscle antibodies; TAC, tacrolimus.

TABLE 2 Infectious, biliary and vascular complications during the first year after AIH-LT

	Number of patients (%)
Infectious episodes	
153 (44.2%)	
Number of events	
CMV infection or disease	49
Pneumonia	35
Cholangitis/liver abscess	27
Skin and soft tissue infection	13
Isolated septicemia	13
Urinary tract infection	13
VZV infection	9
Spontaneous bacterial peritonitis	8
Gastrointestinal infection	7
Systemic opportunistic infection	6
Secondary peritonitis	2
Septic arthritis or osteomyelitis	2
Other	4
Biliary complications	
87 (25.3%)	
Anastomotic stricture	54
Biliary leak	24
Ischemic cholangiopathy	16
Other	3
Vascular complications	
60 (17.4%)	
Hepatic artery thrombosis	22
Hepatic artery stenosis	17
Portal vein thrombosis or stenosis	13
Hepatic vein thrombosis or stenosis	6
Hepatic artery pseudoaneurysm	3

Almost half of the patients (44.2%) developed sepsis during the first year after LT. CMV was the main cause of infection, including a high percentage (30.6%) of CMV disease. Severe forms of VZV

primary infection or reactivation were equally reported in 9 patients. The second leading cause of sepsis was pulmonary infection (including 5 invasive aspergilloses, 2 pneumocystoses and 1 nocardiosis), followed by biliary tract-related infections. Systemic opportunistic infections included systemic candidiasis, cryptococcosis, disseminated trichosporonosis, toxoplasmosis and mucormycosis.

Multivariate analysis disclosed as significant risk factors for early septic events occurrence of biliary complications after LT (odds ratio [OR] = 1.8; 95% CI: 1.1–3.0; $p = .025$) and LT in the context of (sub) fulminant hepatitis or ACLF (OR = 1.7; 95% CI: 1.1–2.9; $p = .030$). AKI was also a significant risk factor for early sepsis in a multivariate model excluding LT (OR = 2.0; 95% CI: 1.0–3.8; $p = .035$) (see [Table S2](#)).

We also investigated the impact of previous immunosuppression on the occurrence of bacterial and/or fungal infections after LT. These two types of infections, whether tested separately or together, were not associated with the administration of CST therapy at the time of LT (or its dose or duration) nor by the administration of any other immunosuppressive drug. In the same way, when analysing the subgroups of ACLF and fulminant hepatitis, no impact of previous immunosuppression on early infections was highlighted.

3.3 | Rejection

Eighty-one patients (23.5%) presented one or several episodes of acute rejection during the first year post-LT. The incidence of acute rejection decreased with the time of LT ([Figure 1](#)). The first episode of rejection occurred after a median time of 14 days post-LT (IQR, 9–86). Over the 54 episodes with available Banff grading, 37.0%, 51.9% and 11.1% were classified as mild, moderate and severe respectively. No acute rejection-related graft loss occurred, but one of the patients developed rapid chronic ductopenic rejection after 2

documented previous acute rejections, requiring retransplantation 6.1 months after the initial LT.

In multivariate analysis, 3 independent protective factors were identified: age at LT (per year; OR = 0.971; 95% CI: 0.949–0.993; $p = .012$), use of an induction treatment (OR = 0.3; 95% CI: 0.2–0.8; $p = .009$) and triple immunosuppressive regimen with any antimetabolite (OR = 0.4; 95% CI: 0.2–0.99; $p = .047$) (see [Table S3](#)).

3.4 | Patient survival

Patient survival was 88.0% at 1 year. Of the 40 deaths, half occurred during the first month. The leading cause of early death was sepsis ($n = 18$) ([Table 3](#)), with a median time for fatal infectious episodes of 0.8 months. Liver-related deaths represented the second-leading cause of mortality. Identified risk factors in univariate analysis were Child-Pugh score ($p = .008$), AKI ($p < .001$), LT indication (with a poorer prognosis for patients transplanted in the context of ACLF, $p = .004$), anti-IL2 induction therapy ($p = .006$), MELD score ($p = .038$), age at LT ($p = .002$) and donor age ($p = .011$) ([Table 4](#)). Whatever the multivariate analysis model (including or not the presence of anti-HLA antibodies [significant proportion of missing data], MELD and/or Child-Pugh scores [collinearity]), only AKI at LT was independently associated with patient survival (HR = 2.6; 95% CI: 1.0–6.5; $p = .04$) ([Figure 2A](#)). The period of LT did not impact survival probability. One-year survival was 93.8%, 92.6% and 84.7% for patients transplanted before 1996, from 1996 to 2005 and after 2006 respectively ([Figure 2D](#)).

3.5 | Graft survival

Twenty-one patients required retransplantation within the first year following LT ([Table 3](#)) after a median time of 10 days (IQR, 3–185).

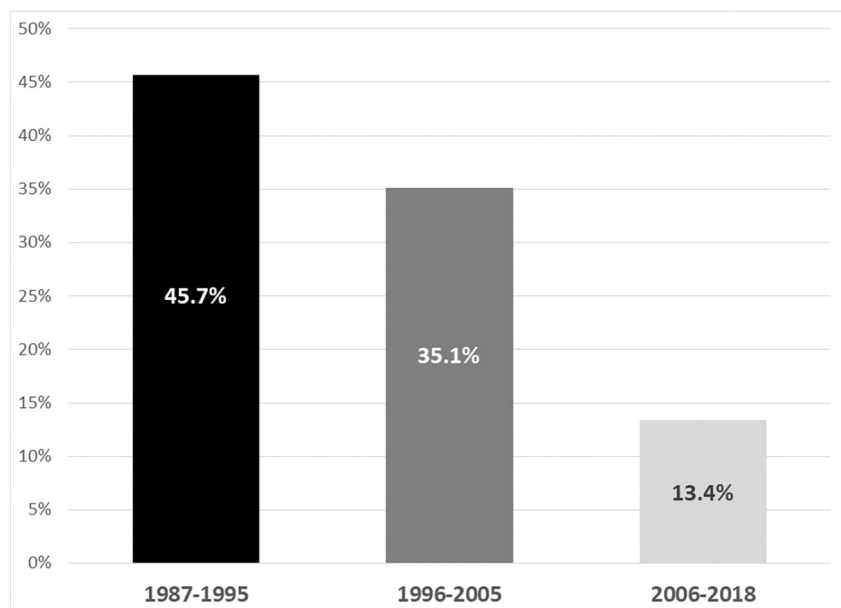


FIGURE 1 Risk of acute rejection during the first year after liver transplantation (LT) depending on the time period of LT. Incidence of acute rejection progressively decreased with time period, from 45.7% for LT before the year 1996 to 13.4% for LT after the year 2006.

TABLE 3 Causes of death and retransplantation (re-LT) during the first year after AIH-LT

		Causes	n	Median time from first LT (months)	
Retransplantation (n = 21)		Primary graft nonfunction	9	2 days (2–5)	
		Ischemic cholangiopathy	4	5.4 months (3.1–7.9)	
		Chronic ductopenic rejection	3	4.9 months (4.4–5.5)	
		Recurrent AIH	1	11.4 months	
		Hemorrhagic shock	1	6 days	
		Small-for-size syndrome	1	6 days	
		Acute liver failure after TIPS placement for refractory ascites	1	2.6 months	
		Budd-Chiari syndrome	1	7.4 months	
Deaths (n = 40)		No re-LT			
		Sepsis	15	0.8 (0.2–1.6)	
		Cerebro- or cardio-vascular related	4	0.4 (0.3–3.1)	
		Unexplained multiorgan failure	3	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	
		Primary graft nonfunction	3	0.1 (0.1–1.1)	
		Hemorrhagic shock	2	4.3 (2.8–5.7)	
		Hepatocholangiocarcinoma recurrence	1	11.4	
		N/a	4	5.4 (1.8–8.9)	
		Re-LT			
		Sepsis	3	3.5 (2.1–5.3)	
		Graft failure following retransplantation	3	1.2 (0.8–1.7)	
		Cardiovascular	1	0.2	
		N/a	1	10.7	

The first cause of retransplantation was primary graft nonfunction ($n = 9$). Four patients developed chronic ductopenic rejection within the first year, leading 3 of them to early retransplantation after a median time of 4.9 months.

In univariate analysis, significant risk factors for graft loss were MELD score ($p = .015$), AKI at LT ($p < .001$), donor age ($p = .009$), anti-IL2 induction therapy ($p = .007$) and occurrence of acute rejection ($p = .041$) (Table 4). The risk of graft loss differed significantly according to the LT period ($p = .008$, Figure 2C) and to the indication ($p = .016$), with a poorer prognosis for ACLF followed by fulminant hepatitis. Age at LT was also weakly associated with graft loss ($p = .058$). Only AKI at LT was an independent significant factor associated with graft survival (HR = 2.5; 95% CI: 1.1–5.4; $p = .022$) (Figure 2B).

4 | DISCUSSION

Our study is one of the largest available, based on individual data, and confirms an overall early good prognosis of AIH-LT: 1-year graft and patient survivals were respectively 84.3% and 88.0%, in agreement with previous studies.^{10,23} We confirm the need to manage septic risk in the early post-transplant period, as it represents the leading cause of early deaths. Other types of usual early complications after LT, namely acute rejection, biliary and vascular complications, have also to be managed during this period, with an incidence that appears to be high. However, these results need to be weighted

by a possible effect of time, since our cohort was included in a large time frame. Our most relevant result is the demonstration of renal failure as the main factor impacting early outcome, rather than factors associated with liver function or the pre-LT immunosuppressive treatment.

As previously described, infectious episodes requiring hospitalization or resulting in significant morbidity or mortality were frequent after AIH-LT in the first year, affecting almost half of the recipients.¹⁰ An unresolved issue regarding this high risk of sepsis was the role of previous immunosuppressive therapies in these patients. To our knowledge, no study investigated this question before. Here, we tested each type of immunosuppressive therapy separately and in combination, including the dose and duration of treatment for CST. We did not find any detrimental impact of previous immunosuppression on the occurrence of sepsis after AIH-LT, even considering all types of infection or only bacterial or fungal ones. Unexpectedly, we observed that AZA treatment at the time of LT was associated with a lower risk of infection during the first year in the univariate analysis. However, this observation may only reflect the increased risk of sepsis in the case of ACLF or (sub)fulminant hepatitis, since the treatment is frequently withdrawn in these 2 conditions, and concordantly with the absence of statistical significance found in multivariate analysis. Importantly, the administration of steroids at the time of LT was not associated with an increased risk of sepsis in the early postoperative period.

After AIH-LT, infectious complications were frequent in our cohort and were the main cause of 1-year mortality. A large recent

TABLE 4 Risk factors associated with graft loss and death (univariate and multivariate analysis)

Factor	Graft loss			Death		
	Univariate analysis	Multivariate analysis		Univariate analysis	Multivariate analysis	
		HR (95% CI)	p-value		HR (95% CI)	p-value
Gender	<i>p</i> = .184			<i>p</i> = .571		
Age at LT	<i>p</i> = .058	1.007 (0.986–1.028)	<i>p</i> = .531	<i>p</i> = .002	1.024 (0.998–1.052)	<i>p</i> = .074
Type of AIH	<i>p</i> = .629			<i>p</i> = .843		
Overlap syndrome	<i>p</i> = .266			<i>p</i> = .188		
Autoimmune associated disease	<i>p</i> = .318			<i>p</i> = .953		
Pre-LT diabetes	<i>p</i> = .971			<i>p</i> = .602		
Pre-LT arterial hypertension	<i>p</i> = .659			<i>p</i> = .148		
CST therapy at LT	<i>p</i> = .760			<i>p</i> = .972		
Length of CST therapy	<i>p</i> = .611			<i>p</i> = .422		
Dose of CST at LT	<i>p</i> = .865			<i>p</i> = .981		
AZA at LT	<i>p</i> = .829			<i>p</i> = .967		
Any immunosuppression at LT	<i>p</i> = .671			<i>p</i> = .600		
IgG level at LT	<i>p</i> = .428			<i>p</i> = .368		
Time from first symptoms to LT	<i>p</i> = .631			<i>p</i> = .298		
BMI at LT	<i>p</i> = .660			<i>p</i> = .342		
Split LT	<i>p</i> = .346			<i>p</i> = .606		
Period of LT	<i>p</i> = .008			<i>p</i> = .067		
1987–1995		1.0 (reference)	<i>p</i> = .997		1.0 (reference)	<i>p</i> = .913
1996–2005		0.997 (0.2–5.2)	<i>p</i> = .161		1.1 (0.1–10.4)	<i>p</i> = .360
2006–2018		3.0 (0.7–13.5)			2.7 (0.3–22.5)	
LT in high-volume centres	<i>p</i> = .381			<i>p</i> = .138		
Child-Pugh class	<i>p</i> = .201			<i>p</i> = .008		
A		1.0 (reference)	<i>p</i> = .813		1.0 (reference)	<i>p</i> = .850
B		1.2 (0.3–5.4)	<i>p</i> = .807		0.9 (0.2–4.1)	<i>p</i> = .198
C		0.8 (0.2–3.8)			0.3 (0.1–1.8)	
MELD score	<i>p</i> = .015			<i>p</i> = .038	0.9 (0.9–1.0) ^a	<i>p</i> = .086 ^a
AKI at LT	<i>p</i> < .001	2.5 (1.1–5.4)	<i>p</i> = .022	<i>p</i> < .001	2.6 (1.0–6.5)	<i>p</i> = .040
FH versus CLD	<i>p</i> = .855			<i>p</i> = .832		
Indication of LT	<i>p</i> = .016			<i>p</i> = .004		
CLD without ACLF		1.0 (reference)	<i>p</i> = .743		1.0 (reference)	<i>p</i> = .489
Fulminant hepatitis		0.9 (0.3–2.2)	<i>p</i> = .302		1.5 (0.5–4.9)	<i>p</i> = .057
ACLF		1.5 (0.7–3.5)			2.7 (0.97–7.5)	
HLA DR3 and/or DR4	<i>p</i> = .689			<i>p</i> = .781		
HLA A1B8DR3	<i>p</i> = .108			<i>p</i> = .193		
CMV D+/R- status	<i>p</i> = .649			<i>p</i> = .327		
High number of mismatches (>4)	<i>p</i> = .271			<i>p</i> = .583		
Pre-LT anti-HLA antibodies	<i>p</i> = .118			<i>p</i> = .059	na ^b	na ^b
Donor age	<i>p</i> = .009	1.005 (0.988–1.021)	<i>p</i> = .584	<i>p</i> = .011	1.006 (0.986–1.026)	<i>p</i> = .579

(Continues)

TABLE 4 (Continued)

Factor	Graft loss			Death		
	Univariate analysis	Multivariate analysis		Univariate analysis	Multivariate analysis	
		HR (95% CI)	p-value		HR (95% CI)	p-value
Donor-recipient age difference	<i>p</i> = .272			<i>p</i> = .860		
Gender mismatch	<i>p</i> = .993			<i>p</i> = .764		
Cold ischemia time	<i>p</i> = .258			<i>p</i> = .105		
Anti-IL2 induction therapy	<i>p</i> = .009	1.2 (0.6–2.4)	<i>p</i> = .615	<i>p</i> = .008	1.212 (0.549–2.677)	<i>p</i> = .634

Note: Data are shown as either *n* (%) or median (interquartile range) for continuous variables. Each factor was tested in univariate analysis by Cox regression. Variables with a *p*-value < .010 were introduced in the multivariate models. Variables with *p* < .05 were considered as statistically significant and labelled in bold.

Abbreviations: ACLF, acute-on-chronic liver failure; AIH, autoimmune hepatitis; AKI, acute kidney injury; AZA, azathioprine; BMI, body mass index; CLD, chronic liver disease; CST, corticosteroids; HLA, human leukocyte antigen; LT, liver transplantation; na, not analysed.

^aThe MELD score was introduced into another multivariate analysis model, in place of the Child-Pugh score. In the same way, only AKI was a significant risk factor in this model (HR = 3.5; 95% CI: 1.2–9.8; *p* = .017).

^bPre-LT anti-HLA antibodies (whether or not corresponding to donor-specific antibodies) were not introduced into multivariate analysis because of a large number of missing data (data obtained from 208 of 344 patients).

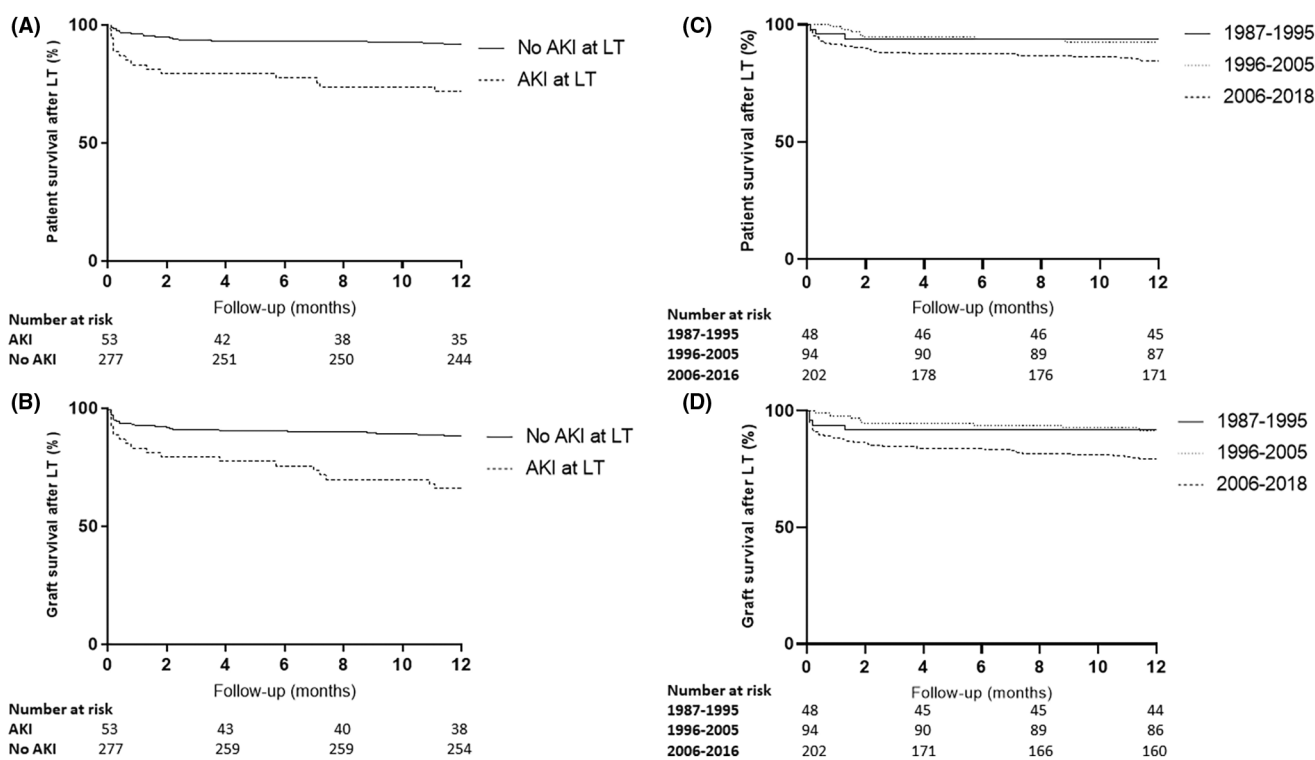


FIGURE 2 Survival functions of grafts and patients, with or without the presence of acute kidney injury at the time of liver transplantation (LT) and according to time periods. (A) Presence of acute kidney injury (AKI) significantly and independently impaired graft (HR = 2.5; 95% CI: 1.1–5.4; *p* = .022) and (B) patient survival (HR = 2.6; 95% CI: 1.0–6.5; *p* = .04). One-year graft and patient survivals were, respectively, 64.2% and 71.7% in the case of AKI at LT and 87.0% and 91.7% in its absence. For 15 patients, no information was available on renal function at the time of LT. (C) Graft and (D) patient survival according to different time periods: 1987–1995, 1996–2005 and 2006–2018. The probability of graft loss was significantly higher in more recent years (*p* = .008 using the Cox test), whilst patient survival tended to be poorer in 2006–2018 without reaching statistical significance (*p* = .067).

multicenter study based on the European Liver Transplantation Registry (ELTR) compared the prognosis of 2515 AIH-LT patients (excluding fulminant hepatitis and overlap syndromes) with LT for

PBC, PSC and alcoholic-related cirrhosis.¹⁰ These authors found a reduced graft and patient survival after LT for AIH compared with PBC and PSC, and an increased risk of early fatal infections

(especially, fungal infections) compared to all other groups. Almost half of these fatal infectious episodes occurred during the first 90 days after LT, and 69.7% occurred during the first year. All of the lethal fungal infections occurred during the first year. In our cohort, 4 patients (10% of all deaths, and 22.2% of sepsis-related deaths) died of a fungal infection, always in the context of multiple organ damages (acute respiratory distress syndrome, ischemic colitis, colon perforation, acute coronary syndrome, pulmonary embolism...). All of them died during the first year after the first ($n = 2$) or second LT ($n = 2$). The identified fungi were candida ($n = 2$), trichosporon and mucormycosis and the median delay to death was 16 days (IQR, 8–45) after the last LT. These observations strongly question the need for systematic antifungal prophylaxis after AIH-LT. If data are still insufficient, systematic administration in selected patients (with AKI, fulminant hepatitis or ACLF and retransplantation) seems mandatory. In the ELTR study, patient aged ≥ 53 years was a risk factor for sepsis-related deaths¹⁰ and tended to be statistically significant for all causes of death in our study. Therefore, the administration of antifungal and/or antibiotic prophylaxis in this population is also questionable.

The only independent risk factor for both graft and patient 1-year survival in our cohort was AKI at the time of LT. The huge impact of kidney failure on prognosis has not been extensively studied in AIH-LT. In a retrospective study based on the United Network for Organ Sharing data (64 977 patients transplanted from 2002 to 2016, all causes of liver disease), 1-year mortality was associated with AKI,⁸ together with donor and recipient ages. This condition may reflect hemodynamic instability at the time of LT or may account for increased susceptibility to infections, as it is already described for fungal infection, whether for pre-operative or post-operative kidney injury.²⁴ Concordantly, the presence of AKI at LT was associated with a higher risk of early septic events in our cohort. Induction treatment with an anti-IL2 antibody, which protected from the occurrence of acute rejection, was associated with an increased risk of death in univariate analysis. However, since this therapy is mainly administered in the case of acute renal injury to delay or reduce TAC introduction, we assume that it has no damaging effect in itself, corroborated by the absence of effect observed in the multivariate analysis. Interestingly, LT in the context of fulminant hepatitis, in our cohort, did not impair patient or graft survival. However, LT in the setting of ACLF tended to be an independent pejorative risk factor for patient survival, and early septic events were significantly more frequent in these two subgroups, suggesting the need to carefully monitor these patients.

Arterial complications and especially HAT incidence seem higher in AIH-LT compared to other indications of LT. Indeed, we found 12.2% of arterial complications and 6.4% of HAT, which is about double the rates reported in the literature.^{25,26} In a register-based study on UNOS data over 65 646 LT, the risk of postoperative vascular thrombosis (the type of complication being unspecified) was significantly increased in AIH-LT (OR = 1.64). One hypothesis would be the existence of a hypercoagulable state in AIH-LT, as it has already been described in autoimmune conditions.²⁷ In addition to

vascular complications, biliary complications were also frequent. The incidence of biliary strictures is usually from 5% to 15% after deceased donor LT,²⁸ compared to 20.6% in our cohort (excluding the 9 LT with living donor). Biliary tract complications represented the second cause of retransplantation and the third cause of infectious complications. AIH has previously been described as an independent risk factor for non-anastomotic biliary strictures, with a 3-fold increased risk.^{14,16} This higher risk of biliary complications is obviously linked with the increase in arterial complications, but it could also be secondary to immunological events.²⁸ Of note, pre-LT immunosuppression had no impact on the occurrence of biliary and vascular complications in our population, and patients with overlap syndromes had the same prognosis as others.

Both chronic and acute rejection is usually reported as more frequent in AIH-LT.^{12,29–34} Indeed, we observed a high rate of acute rejection at 1 year (23.5%) and 3 early graft losses related to chronic ductopenic rejection. However, a strong time-period bias should be taken into account, since the incidence of acute rejection markedly decreased with a period of LT. Considering our current immunosuppressive regimen, this issue is less of a problem nowadays.

In conclusion, our results from a large national multicenter study, with uniformly compiled and precise data, confirm the huge impact of septic complications on early mortality after AIH-LT, but the absence of deleterious effect of previous immunosuppression on both septic risk and patient and graft 1-year survival. We also identified patients at risk of poor outcomes, with kidney failure being the most robust factor related to early mortality. Close monitoring of the septic risk seems mandatory, and the benefits of antifungal prophylaxis should be considered.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To all the participating centres, Fondation Léon Bouchut and the Agence de la Biomédecine.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors do not have any disclosures to report.

ORCID

Yasmina Chouik  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7548-3703>

Claire Francoz  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7391-8507>

Christophe Duvoux  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4625-4279>

Georges-Philippe Pageaux  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5269-8373>

Didier Samuel  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9481-3616>

Jérôme Dumortier  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7824-5396>

REFERENCES

1. European Association for the Study of the Liver. EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines: autoimmune hepatitis. *J Hepatol*. 2015;63: 971-1004.
2. Hoeroldt B, McFarlane E, Dube A, et al. Long-term outcomes of patients with autoimmune hepatitis managed at a nontransplant center. *Gastroenterology*. 2011;140:1980-1989.
3. Biewenga M, Verhelst X, Baven-Pronk M, et al. Aminotransferases during treatment in AIH aminotransferases during treatment predict

- long-term survival in patients with autoimmune hepatitis type 1: a landmark analysis. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol.* 2021;8:1776-1783.
4. Biewenga M, Verhelst X, Baven-Pronk M, et al. Development and validation of a prognostic score for long-term transplant-free survival in autoimmune hepatitis type 1. *United European Gastroenterol J.* 2021;9(6):662-671.
 5. de Vaca VGC, Bernal Bellido C, Alamo Martínez JN, et al. Liver transplantation due to fulminant hepatic failure. *Transplant Proc.* 2012;44:2076-2077.
 6. Adam R, Karam V, Cailliez V, et al. 2018 annual report of the European liver transplant registry (ELTR)—50-year evolution of liver transplantation. *Transpl Int.* 2018;31:1293-1317.
 7. Watt KD, Pedersen RA, Kremers WK, Heimbach JK, Charlton MR. Evolution of causes and risk factors for mortality post-liver transplant: results of the NIDDK long-term follow-up study. *Am J Transplant.* 2010;10:1420-1427.
 8. Baganate F, Beal EW, Tumin D, et al. Early mortality after liver transplantation: defining the course and the cause. *Surgery.* 2018;164:694-704.
 9. Schramm C, Bubenheim M, Adam R, et al. Primary liver transplantation for autoimmune hepatitis: a comparative analysis of the European Liver Transplant Registry. *Liver Transpl.* 2010;16:461-469.
 10. Heinemann M, Adam R, Berenguer M, et al. Long-term survival after liver transplantation for autoimmune hepatitis: results from the European liver transplant registry. *Liver Transpl.* 2020;26:866-877.
 11. Reich DJ, Fiel I, Guarrera JV, et al. Liver transplantation for autoimmune hepatitis. *Hepatology.* 2000;32:693-700.
 12. Molmenti EP, Netto GJ, Murray NG, et al. Incidence and recurrence of autoimmune/alloimmune hepatitis in liver transplant recipients. *Liver Transpl.* 2002;8:519-526.
 13. Montano-Loza AJ, Ronca V, Ebadi M, et al. Risk factors and outcomes associated with recurrent autoimmune hepatitis following liver transplantation. *J Hepatol.* 2022;77:84-97.
 14. Guichelaar MM, Benson JT, Malinchoc M, Krom RA, Wiesner RH, Charlton MR. Risk factors for and clinical course of non-anastomotic biliary strictures after liver transplantation. *Am J Transplant.* 2003;3:885-890.
 15. Nikeghbalian S, Kazemi K, Davari HR, et al. Early hepatic artery thrombosis after liver transplantation: diagnosis and treatment. *Transplant Proc.* 2007;39:1195-1196.
 16. Jiang T, Li C, Duan B, Liu Y, Wang L, Lu S. Risk factors for and management of ischemic-type biliary lesions following orthotopic liver transplantation: a single center experience. *Ann Hepatol.* 2016;15:41-46.
 17. Bezinover D, Iskandarani K, Chinchilli V, et al. Autoimmune conditions are associated with perioperative thrombotic complications in liver transplant recipients: a UNOS database analysis. *BMC Anesthesiol.* 2016;16:26.
 18. European Association for the Study of the Liver. EASL clinical practice guidelines on sclerosing cholangitis. *J Hepatol.* 2022;77:761-806.
 19. EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines. The diagnosis and management of patients with primary biliary cholangitis. *J Hepatol.* 2017;67:145-172.
 20. Moreau R, Jalan R, Gines P, Pavesi M, Angeli P, Cordoba J, Durand F, Gustot T, Saliba F, Domenicali M, Gerbes A, Wendon J, Alessandria C, Laleman W, Zeuzem S, Trebicka J, Bernardi M, Arroyo V. Acute-on-chronic liver failure is a distinct syndrome that develops in patients with acute decompensation of cirrhosis. *Gastroenterology* 2013; 144: 1426-37, 1437.e1-9.
 21. Mehta RL, Kellum JA, Shah SV, et al. Acute kidney injury network: report of an initiative to improve outcomes in acute kidney injury. *Crit Care.* 2007;11:R31.
 22. Demetris AJ, Bellamy C, Hubscher SG, et al. 2016 comprehensive update of the Banff working group on liver allograft pathology: introduction of antibody-mediated rejection. *Am J Transplant.* 2016;16:2816-2835.
 23. Heinemann M, Liwinski T, Adam R, et al. Long-term outcome after living donor liver transplantation compared to donation after brain death in autoimmune liver diseases: experience from the European liver transplant registry. *Am J Transplant.* 2022;22:626-633.
 24. Eschenauer GA, Lam SW, Carver PL. Antifungal prophylaxis in liver transplant recipients. *Liver Transpl.* 2009;15:842-858.
 25. Iida T, Kaido T, Yagi S, et al. Hepatic arterial complications in adult living donor liver transplant recipients: a single-center experience of 673 cases. *Clin Transplant.* 2014;28:1025-1030.
 26. Bekker J, Ploem S, de Jong KP. Early hepatic artery thrombosis after liver transplantation: a systematic review of the incidence, outcome and risk factors. *Am J Transplant.* 2009;9:746-757.
 27. Zoller B, Li X, Sundquist J, Sundquist K. Autoimmune diseases and venous thromboembolism: a review of the literature. *Am J Cardiovasc Dis.* 2012;2:171-183.
 28. Sharma S, Gurakar A, Jabbour N. Biliary strictures following liver transplantation: past, present and preventive strategies. *Liver Transpl.* 2008;14:759-769.
 29. Wiesner RH, Grambsch PM, Lindor KD, Ludwig J, Dickson ER. Clinical and statistical analyses of new and evolving therapies for primary biliary cirrhosis. *Hepatology.* 1988;8:668-676.
 30. Farges O, Saliba F, Farhamant H, et al. Incidence of rejection and infection after liver transplantation as a function of the primary disease: possible influence of alcohol and polyclonal immunoglobulins. *Hepatology.* 1996;23:240-248.
 31. Milkiewicz P, Hubscher SG, Skiba G, Hathaway M, Elias E. Recurrence of autoimmune hepatitis after liver transplantation. *Transplantation.* 1999;68:253-256.
 32. Seiler CA, Dufour JF, Renner EL, et al. Primary liver disease as a determinant for acute rejection after liver transplantation. *Langenbecks Arch Surg.* 1999;384:259-263.
 33. Vogel A, Heinrich E, Bahr MJ, et al. Long-term outcome of liver transplantation for autoimmune hepatitis. *Clin Transplant.* 2004;18:62-69.
 34. Padilla M, Mayorga R, Carrasco F, et al. Liver transplantation for autoimmune hepatitis in Peru: outcomes and recurrence. *Ann Hepatol.* 2012;11:222-227.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional supporting information can be found online in the Supporting Information section at the end of this article.

How to cite this article: Chouik Y, Francoz C, De Martin E, et al. Liver transplantation for autoimmune hepatitis: Pre-transplant does not predict the early post-transplant outcome. *Liver Int.* 2023;43:906-916. doi:[10.1111/liv.15500](https://doi.org/10.1111/liv.15500)