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12 | SURGICAL BILIARY DIVERSION IS ASSOCIATED WITH AN INCREASED RISK OF LIVER TRANSPLANTATION OR DEATH IN ALAGILLE SYNDROME★

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Background: Alagille syndrome (ALGS) is an inherited liver disorder dominated by high γ -glutamyltransferase (GGT) cholestasis. Previous studies have demonstrated limited efficacy of surgical interruption of the enterohepatic circulation in ALGS, with varying degrees of improvement in pruritus and xanthomas. Utilizing the GALA database, we sought to evaluate whether surgical biliary diversion (SBD) alters the natural history of liver disease. **Methods:** Multicenter retrospective analysis of children with clinically and/or genetically confirmed ALGS. Laboratory data were collected preoperatively (–6 to 0 mo) and postoperatively (3 to 12 mo). Paired



sample t-tests were used to compare continuous variables, and McNemar's tests were used to compare binominal variables pre-and postoperatively. Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curves were used to determine the optimal laboratory threshold for predicting native liver survival (NLS) following SBD. Cox proportional hazards models were constructed to determine NLS in ALGS-SBD patients. **Results:** Of 1673 ALGS patients, 3.7% ($n=62$; 54.8% male) underwent SBD from 26 centers. The median age of SBD was 2.5 years (IQR 1.8 – 4.4). Most ALGS patients underwent a partial external biliary diversion (54.8%, $n=34$), followed by a partial internal biliary diversion in 19.4% ($n=12$) and ileal exclusion in 12.9% ($n=8$). 100% ($n=62$) of patients reported pruritus at the time of SBD, and 51.4% ($n=18/35$) reported xanthomas. ALGS-SBD patients had a 2.5-fold greater risk of liver transplantation (LT) or death (95% CI 1.6 – 3.9; $p<0.01$). Following SBD, there were no significant differences in total bilirubin (TB) (8.8 vs. 9.1 mg/dL, $p=0.51$), ALT (159.5 vs. 189.7 U/L, $p=0.38$), GGT (495.0 vs. 459.5 U/L, $p=0.21$) or cholesterol (493.0 vs. 414.6 mg/dL, $p=0.21$). Availability of serum bile acids (SBA) was limited; however, in 10 patients with SBAs pre-and postoperatively, there was a significant reduction following SBD (257.2 vs. 97.7 μmol , $p=0.05$). Among these patients, 80% achieved NLS. TB levels <4.0 mg/dL following SBD were significantly associated with longer NLS ($p=0.05$; AUC TB, 0.784; sensitivity, 94%; specificity, 52%). There were no significant improvements in pruritus (100% vs. 91.7%, $p=0.25$) or xanthomas (51.4% vs. 45.1%, $p=0.67$) after SBD. **Conclusion:** SBD in ALGS was associated with an increased risk of LT or death. SBD may be a marker for severe hepatic phenotype in ALGS. In contrast to PFIC, SBD does not appear to improve NLS in ALGS. However, in a subset of ALGS-SBD patients with SBA, higher rates of NLS were noted in those who experienced a substantial decrease in post-operative SBA levels. These findings also indicate that post-SBD TB levels can be used as a biomarker for NLS. In an era of ileal bile acid transporter (IBAT) inhibitors, SBD may become obsolete in ALGS.

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13 | MiR150 DEFICIENCY IN MACROPHAGES IMPROVES ALCOHOL INDUCED HEPATIC STEATOSIS VIA TRANSFERRING THYROID HORMONE RECEPTOR B ENRICHED EVS TARGETING ADIPOSE TISSUE-LIVER AXIS: THYROID HORMONE RECEPTOR B, A PROMISING THERAPEUTIC TARGET IN ALD

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Background: The mechanisms of alcoholic hepatitis (AH) are complex and involve the cross talk between organ systems. MiR150, one of the most abundant microRNAs in immune cells, has been implicated in various liver diseases, but its role in AH pathogenesis remains unclear. We aimed to determine the role of the miR150-mediated immune cells-liver axis in AH pathogenesis. **Methods:** MiR150 levels were measured in serum (S) and liver (L) samples from healthy controls (HC, N=15 for S, 5 for L), heavy drinkers (HD, N=17 for S), and AH (N=65 for S, 5 for L) patients. Correlations between miR150 levels, MELD scores, and serum transaminases were analyzed. Global *miR150* knockout mice (*miR150*^{-/-}) and myeloid cell-specific miR150 knockout mice (*miR150*^{LYZ}^{-/-}) were generated to assess the function of *miR150* in a chronic plus binge alcohol feeding model. **Results:** Serum and hepatic miR150 level were significantly reduced in AH patients compared to HC. Serum miR150 level negatively correlated with serum AST, but not with MELD score. The level of hepatic miR150 was markedly reduced in mice fed with chronic plus binge alcohol model. Genetic deletion of *miR150* attenuated ethanol-induced liver injury and steatosis, as evidenced by the reduction of ALT, and hepatic triglyceride level. Fatty acid β -oxidation-associated proteins, including PPAR α , PGC1 α , UCP2, CPT1A, and hormone sensitive lipase, were highly upregulated in both liver and WAT of ethanol-fed *miR150*^{-/-} mice compared to WT mice. To understand how miR150 is involved in alcohol-induced steatosis, we observed a significant increase in the expression of the miR150 target gene, thyroid hormone receptor β (THRB), in the liver, WAT, and circulating extracellular vesicles (EVs). MiR150 deletion contributed to a significant increase in THRB in macrophages and macrophage-derived EVs. Ethanol fed myeloid cell-specific miR150 knockout mice also exhibited elevated THRB levels in the liver, WAT, and circulating EVs. The level of THRB was also increased in the serum EVs of AH patients compared with HC. Deletion of *miR150* in myeloid cells ameliorated ethanol-induced liver steatosis, with upregulated expression of PPAR α , UCP2, and CPT1A observed in both the liver and WAT. For the translational aspect of our results, we found that mice treated with THRB agonist, Resmetirom, significantly reduced ethanol-induced hepatic steatosis. The role of miR-150 and ALD pathogenesis is illustrated in the Figure. **Conclusion:** Macrophage-derived miR150 plays a crucial role in controlling the progression of steatosis through the release of THRB-containing EVs. MiR-150 and its target (THRB) may represent potential therapeutic targets for ALD.