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Summary

HCC RECURRENCE AFTER LIVER TRANSPLANTATION: THE VALIDATION OF RETREAT SCORE IN A SINGLE CENTER COHORT

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A single-center validation study of 123 liver transplant recipients with hepatocellular carcinoma found that the RETREAT score reliably predicted post-transplant tumor recurrence, while the TTV/AFP score did not.

KEY POINTS

- In 123 patients transplanted for HCC between 2016-2018, the RETREAT score was significantly associated with recurrence risk (HR 1.703, p<0.001), with 1-year recurrence rates of 2%, 4%, and 21% for RETREAT scores 0-1, 2-4, and 5-8 respectively.
- Overall HCC recurrence occurred in 13% of patients at a median of 14 months post-transplant, with 75% of recurrences being extrahepatic.
- The TTV/AFP score was not associated with HCC recurrence in this cohort (p=0.680).
- On explant pathology, 53% of patients were Milan-out, 27% had microvascular invasion, and 30% had G3 nodules, despite 93% having undergone downstaging treatments pre-transplant.
- The authors conclude that RETREAT scoring may help stratify post-transplant surveillance intensity for hepatocellular carcinoma patients.

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