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Reperfusion injury to steatotic livers after transplantation can be attenuated with

a modified HTK solution

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Ischemia reperfusion injury (IRI) is still an obstacle especially in fatty livers. Most

recently, a modified histidine-trypophan-ketoglutarate (HTK) solution including

N-acetyl-histidine, aspartate, glycine, alanine, and arginine has been developed. This

study was designed to test its effect on IRI to fatty livers after transplantation.

Methods: Mild steatosis was induced by a single dose of ethanol (8 g/kgBW) to female

Sprague-Dawley (SD) donor rats. Livers were harvested and cold stored at 4°C for 8

hours with either HTK or modified HTK solution before transplantation. Survival,

serum transaminases (AST, ALT, LDH), standard histological staining (PAS) and

immunohistochemical stainings (i.e. MPO, caspase-3 and iNOS) were analysed after

1h, 8h and 24h. For statistics, Kaplan-Meyer estimator, Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)

and T-Test were used as appropriate. All results are presented as mean±SEM.

Results: Modified HTK solution significantly improved survival from 12.5% in

controls to 87.5% (p<0.05). Further, AST, ALT and LDH decreased to 2-75% of

controls (p<0.05) using the modified HTK. Necrosis index significantly decreased in

the modified HTK group (p<0.05). Staining scores for MPO, caspase-3 and iNOS were

significantly higher in controls (p<0.05).

Conclusions: This study shows for the first time superior protective effects of the

modified HTK solution compared to standard HTK solution in fatty liver

transplantation.