

***Anesthesiology Rounds***  
**April 2005**

**Anesthesia and Hepatic Resection**

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**Objectives:**

- To describe the implications of liver disease on preoperative assessment.
- To understand the relationship between central venous pressure and blood loss during hepatic surgery.
- To understand the effects of hilar clamping and total vascular exclusion.
- To discuss the possible effects of liver resection on hemostasis.
- To compare the benefits and risks of various techniques for postoperative analgesia.

**Questions:**

1. Which one of the following statements is true?
  - a. During a hepatic resection, a central venous pressure (CVP) of >5 mm Hg is always associated with heavy bleeding.
  - b. During a hepatic resection, a CVP of <6 mm Hg is usually associated with less bleeding.
  - c. Surgical hemostasis can be important.
  - d. Desmopressin is very useful for controlling bleeding.
2. Which one of the following statements is true?
  - a. Epidural analgesia is safe following a partial hepatectomy.
  - b. The benefits of postoperative epidural analgesia following major hepatic surgery have been clearly demonstrated.
  - c. The INR always returns to normal on Day 4 after a hepatectomy.
  - d. The drop in platelet count is usually small on Day 5 after the surgery.

3. Which one of the following statements is false?

- a. The mortality rate after liver resection is approximately 5%.
- b. The mortality rate at specialized centers is lower.
- c. Liver failure and hemorrhaging are the main causes of these fatalities.
- d. Liver resection is done along the lines of surface anatomy (lobes).

4. Which one of the following statements is true?

- a. Desmopressin diminishes blood loss in a partial hepatectomy.
- b. Aprotinin reduces hemorrhaging during a partial hepatectomy.
- c. Recombinant activated factor VII limits bleeding.
- d. Normovolemic hemodilution does not reduce blood loss, but reduces the number of units transfused.

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