ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW

TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP REPORT

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Introduction

• In the United Kingdom currently about one third of kidney transplants are donated by living donors, but only a very small number of living donor liver transplants are performed as compared to high volume living donor liver transplant centres in South Korea, Japan, Turkey, and India.
Introduction

- I am currently working in St James University Hospital, Leeds where we provide a supra regional service for hepatobiliary, liver and kidney transplantation surgery.
- My specialist interest has been in HPB and transplantation surgery.
- We are one of the two centres in the United Kingdom offering routinely living donor liver transplantation, the other centre is Kings College Hospital, London.
Aim

• I aimed to travel to a high volume living donor liver transplant centre with international reputation to observe and acquire new skills, which I could potentially use in future while working in a living donor liver transplant programme.

• I decided to go to Florence Nightingale Hospital in Istanbul, which performs more than 100 living donor liver transplants per year with widely published excellent outcomes.
Florence Nightingale Hospital

Group Florence Nightingale has 4 hospitals with 900 patient beds, 41 operating rooms, 143 intensive care and 50 emergency beds, providing medical services to Turkish and overseas patients.
My supervisor during my stay was Professor Yaman Tokat and programme facilitator Dr Murat Dayangac.
Center experience

• Professor Tokat and his team have performed more than 700 liver transplants since the inception of the programme at Florence Nightingale Hospital in 2004.
• He is a very experienced liver transplant surgeon of international reputation and has published his research related to various aspects of transplantation in scientific journals.
• He has also trained liver transplant surgeons from various parts of the world and is currently director of liver transplant services in Florence Nightingale Hospital.
I also had the opportunity to work closely with the senior donor surgeon, Professor Yildiray Yuzer.
Transplant practice

• The HPB and liver transplant multidisciplinary team meeting was scheduled for every Monday morning.
• All local and overseas potential donor and recipient pairs were presented by transplant hepatology team.
• Scan findings and other clinical concerns were discussed thoroughly and appropriate management plans were made.
• The meetings were very well attended by transplant surgeons, radiologists, hepatologists, anaesthetists, transplant coordinators and allied specialities.
Transplant surgery

- Live donor liver transplants were usually scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday and Friday was mostly utilised for non transplant surgery.
- Living donor liver transplantation is much more complex and technically demanding as compared to deceased donor liver transplantation.
- I had the opportunity to attend 9 living donor liver transplants and 1 deceased donor liver transplant.
My LDLT experience

- Among the living donor transplants, 8 were adult to adult right lobe grafts and 1 was a left lateral graft for a paediatric recipient.
- In all cases I attended donor hepatectomy, back table graft vascular reconstruction and implantation.
- I was also exposed to various grafts with complex anatomy needing back table reconstruction and technically challenging implantations.
My LDLT experience

• This was an excellent opportunity for me to learn various steps and techniques of living donor liver transplantation from an experienced team.

• All the patients recovered well and there were no significant post operative issues.

• All in all, it was an excellent experience and it certainly has significantly enhanced my understanding of various aspects of living donor liver transplantation, such as careful donor and recipient selection, surgical aspects and post operative care.
Living donor liver transplant in progress
Hepatic artery anastomosis with surgical microscope
During my 4 weeks stay in Istanbul, I certainly enjoyed the city life on weekends and during my free time.
I had the opportunity to visit various tourist attractions and my recommendations are Bosphorus, Taksim square, Grand Bazar, Sultanahmet, Hagia Sofia, Blue Mosque and Topkapi palace.

(Bosphorus)
The food was delicious and there were restaurants of all types to suit everyone’s palate!

(HPB/Liver transplant team night out)
It is a beautiful city where I would like to visit again in future.

(View of Istanbul from Galata Tower)
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