

# Editorial

## Liver biliopancreatic workshop surgery

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The ultimate objectives of scientific medicine are to prolong human life and to alleviate suffering.

The two great branches of the healing art – Medicine and Surgery – are so intimately related in a multidisciplinary environment that it is impossible to draw a clear line between them.

Nowadays the surgery (from the Greek word “cheirurgikē”) may be defined as “the art of treating lesions and malformations of the human body by manual-mediate operations”

Recent advances in hepato-bilio-pancreatic surgery have given to patients an important new hope, even for malignancies traditionally considered poorly curable. These advances include not only the development of new and less invasive surgical techniques but also improvements in diagnostic methods, in anaesthetics, newer and more efficient operating equipment and a greater knowledge for postoperative handling of these patients.

The Meeting of Hepatobiliopancreatic surgery, organized in the fascinating city of Militello (Catania) has been, over the years, an important occasion to share the knowledge and experience of various leading experts in the surgical field.

In occasion of the 10th edition of the Meeting we decided to collect the contributes of relators and participants and support the scientific research in various areas of digestive surgery, in particular in the hepato-biliary-pancreatic surgery.

The main topics studied were:

- Modern surgical techniques of liver resection: new energy sources and dissection devices. Techniques for liver hypertrophy with liver resections planned in order to reduce the risk of post-operative hepatic failure, the role of intraoperative ultrasound, the role of the microwave thermal ablation, the technique of laparoscopic hepatectomy. The clamping of the hepatic pedicle, the tolerance of the liver to ischemia caused by clamping, the intraoperative and postoperative complications of hepatectomy;
- Hepatocellular carcinoma and the role of Hepatitis C (CHC) virus infection in treatment with IFN and ribavirin.
- Surgery of biliary tumors: technique, indications and results in tumors of the biliary convergence, in tumors of the gallbladder and peripheral cholangiocarcinomas;
- Surgery of the pancreas: treatment of pancreatic stump and prevention of pancreatic fistula. Treatment of pancreatic pseudocysts, indications for surgical treatment of cystic pancreatic tumors and neuroendocrine tumors of the pancreas;
- Surgery of colorectal liver metastases and synchronous neoplasms: indications and results, the management of patients with synchronous metastases to the primary tumor, the results of surgery after neoadjuvant chemotherapy and the advantages of repeated resections;
- The treatment of gallbladder lithiasis and acute cholecystitis

This scientific activity has been accompanied with video presentation of the surgical technique.

We hope this scientific contributions to hepato-biliary-pancreatic surgery could be of interest for the surgical community and in particular for the young surgeon.