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### *Short Communication*

## **The Risk of Surgery in Patients with Liver Disease**

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### **Abstract**

The results of retrospective large scale registry and cohort studies and small case series, substantiate the common perception that it is risky to operate on a patient with liver disease. The preexisting physiological derangements of liver disease may be exacerbated by the trauma of surgery and its complications, which contributes strongly to the aforementioned surgical risks, especially, but not exclusively in cirrhotics. Perturbations in liver blood flow and oxygenation may be exaggerated by anesthesia, surgery itself, blood loss, and other operative complications. Cirrhotics are especially susceptible to acute and chronic kidney injury. Malnutrition is common in cirrhosis and compromises wound healing and recovery from surgery. In cirrhosis, elimination of infection is impaired and its systemic effects are deleterious. The metabolic and immunological stresses of surgery may lead to deterioration of liver function, even in stable cirrhotics. Presented here is the pre-operative evaluation of liver disease patients, including the use of predictive indices, new dynamic tests of liver function, and the modestly invasive assessment of portal hypertension. The outcomes of a broad spectrum of surgical procedures are reviewed, with particular reference to common predictors, i.e., the Child-Turcotte-Pugh (CTP) score/class and the Model for End-Stage Liver Disease (MELD) score, and a simple practical pre-operative decision tree is provided.

### **Biography**

Adrian Reuben is Professor of Medicine Emeritus at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), in Charleston SC, where he directed the Liver Program that he created, for 21 years. He completed his medical education, residency and gastroenterology fellowship in London UK. Following a scholarship at Yale University he was appointed to the faculty, and then moved to MUSC to establish a Liver Service and enhance the Liver Transplant program. He has published over 100 peer-reviewed original articles, editorials, case reports, book chapters and 44 essays on Hepatology history, and has served on several editorial boards and many professional committees.

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