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CLINICAL FOCUS

- General Surgery

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Clinical Associate Professor, Surgery - Abdominal Transplantation

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Fellowship: Cleveland Clinic Foundation (2018) OH
- Residency: Toranomon Hospital (2009) Japan
- Internship: Kyoto University, Faculty of Medicine (2006) Japan
- Medical Education: Shiga University of Medical Science (2004) Japan

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Combining a deep learning model with clinical data better predicts hepatocellular carcinoma behavior following surgery.** *Journal of pathology informatics*
Schmauch, B., Elsoukkary, S. S., Moro, A., Raj, R., Wehrle, C. J., Sasaki, K., Calderaro, J., Sin-Chan, P., Aucejo, F., Roberts, D. E.
2024; 15: 100360
- **Epstein-Barr virus-associated post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorders in pediatric transplantation: A prospective multicenter study in the United States.** *Pediatric transplantation*
Tajima, T., Martinez, O. M., Bernstein, D., Boyd, S. D., Gratzinger, D., Lum, G., Sasaki, K., Tan, B., Twist, C. J., Weinberg, K., Armstrong, B., Desai, D. M., Mazariegos, et al
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- **Enhancing the Usability of older DCD donors through strategic approaches in liver transplantation in the US.** *Liver transplantation : official publication of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases and the International Liver Transplantation Society*
Akabane, M., Melcher, M. L., Esquivel, C. O., Imaoka, Y., Kim, W. R., Sasaki, K.
2024

- **The impact of county-level food access on the mortality and post-transplant survival among patients with steatotic liver disease.** *Surgery*
Endo, Y., Tsilimigras, D. I., Khalil, M., Yang, J., Woldesenbet, S., Sasaki, K., Limkemann, A., Schenk, A., Pawlik, T. M.
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- **Impact of donor characteristics on hepatocellular carcinoma recurrence after liver transplantation.** *The British journal of surgery*
Akabane, M., Bekki, Y., Imaoka, Y., Inaba, Y., Esquivel, C. O., Melcher, M. L., Kwong, A., Sasaki, K.
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- **Effect of the opioid crisis on the liver transplantation donor pool: A national analysis.** *Clinical transplantation*
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- **LightGBM outperforms other machine learning techniques in predicting graft failure after liver transplantation: Creation of a predictive model through large-scale analysis.** *Clinical transplantation*
Yanagawa, R., Iwadoh, K., Akabane, M., Imaoka, Y., Bozhilov, K. K., Melcher, M. L., Sasaki, K.
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- **Correction to "Liquid Biopsy by ctDNA in Liver Transplantation for Colorectal Cancer Liver Metastasis" [J Gastrointest Surg.2023;27(7):1498-509].** *Journal of gastrointestinal surgery : official journal of the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract*
Wehrle, C. J., Raj, R., Aykun, N., Orabi, D., Estfan, B., Kamath, S., Krishnamurthi, S., Fujiki, M., Hashimoto, K., Quintini, C., Kwon, D. C., Diago-Uso, T., Sasaki, et al
2024; 28 (3): 336
- **Early Onset Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma: Clinical Characteristics, Oncological Outcomes, and Genomic/Transcriptomic Features.** *Annals of surgical oncology*
Tsilimigras, D. I., Han, X., Guglielmi, A., Aldrighetti, L., Weiss, M., Bauer, T. W., Alexandrescu, S., Poultides, G. A., Maithel, S. K., Marques, H. P., Martel, G., Pulitano, C., Shen, et al
2024
- **Overexpression of Senescence-Associated Genes, SFN and CDC6, Correlates with Poor Survival in Patients with Stage II Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC)**
Badshah, J., Subramanian, S., Melcher, M., Sasaki, K., Visser, B., Delitto, D., Pruett, T., Niedernhofer, L., Kirchner, V.
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- **The impact of colonic allograft inclusion on intestinal transplantation outcomes: Results from UNOS/OPTN database analysis.** *Clinical transplantation*
Matsushima, H., Sasaki, K., Nair, A., Tajima, T., Soyama, A., Eguchi, S., Hashimoto, K., Fujiki, M.
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- **Postoperative morbidity after simultaneous versus staged resection of synchronous colorectal liver metastases: Impact of hepatic tumor burden.** *Surgery*
Endo, Y., Alaimo, L., Moazzam, Z., Woldesenbet, S., Lima, H. A., Munir, M. M., Shaikh, C. F., Yang, J., Azap, L., Katayama, E., Guglielmi, A., Ruzzenente, A., Aldrighetti, et al
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- **Update to 'A Contemporary Systematic Review on Liver Transplantation for Unresectable Liver Metastasis of Colorectal Cancer'.** *Annals of surgical oncology*
Wehrle, C. J., Fujiki, M., Schlegel, A., Whitsett Linganna, M., Pita, A., Kim, J. K., Kwon, D. C., Miller, C., Hashimoto, K., Dueland, S., Sasaki, K., Sapisochin, G., Line, et al
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- **Reappraisal of Donor Age in Liver Transplantation: NASH as a Potential Target to Safely Utilize Old Liver Grafts.** *Transplantation*
Kusakabe, J., Kozato, A., Tajima, T., Bekki, Y., Fujiki, M., Tomiyama, K., Nakamura, T., Matsushima, H., Hashimoto, K., Sasaki, K.
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- **Breaking distance barriers in liver transplantation: Risk factors and outcomes of long-distance liver grafts.** *Surgery*
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- **The short and long-term prognostic influences of liver grafts with high bilirubin levels at the time of organ recovery.** *Clinical transplantation*
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- **Reply: ChatGPT and unknown clinical questions about liver transplantation.** *Liver transplantation : official publication of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases and the International Liver Transplantation Society*
Akabane, M., Iwadoh, K., Melcher, M. L., Sasaki, K.
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- **Using the win ratio to compare laparoscopic versus open liver resection for colorectal cancer liver metastases.** *Hepatobiliary surgery and nutrition*
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- **311.2: Risk factors for Epstein-Barr virus DNAemia in pediatric transplantation: A multicenter study in the United States.** *Transplantation*
Tajima, T., Bernstein, D., Boyd, S. D., Gratzinger, D., Lum, G., Sasaki, K., Tan, B., Weinberg, K., Armstrong, B., Brown, M., Chin, C., Desai, D., Fishbein, et al
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- **Preserving Liver Natural Killer Cell Activity: Developing Novel Culture Techniques for "Off-the-Shelf" Cell Immunotherapy**
Imaoka, Y., Akabane, M., Ohira, M., Ohdan, H., Sasaki, K.
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- **Identifying high TRAIL-expressing liver NK cells from deceased and living donors for effective immunotherapy**
Imaoka, Y., Akabane, M., Ohira, M., Ohdan, H., Sasaki, K.
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- **SURVIVAL OF PATIENTS WITH DECOMPENSATED PRIMARY BILIARY CHOLANGITIS IN THE ERA OF OBETICHOLIC ACID AND MELD 3.0**
Sedki, M., Chung, N. L., Goel, A., Montano-Loza, A. J., Kwong, A. J., Sasaki, K., Kim, W., Mannalithara, A.
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- **Has the risk of liver re-transplantation improved over the two decades?** *Clinical transplantation*
Akabane, M., Bekki, Y., Imaoka, Y., Inaba, Y., Esquivel, C. O., Kwong, A., Melcher, M. L., Sasaki, K.
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- **Optimal policy tree to assist in adjuvant therapy decision-making after resection of colorectal liver metastases.** *Surgery*
Endo, Y., Alaimo, L., Moazzam, Z., Woldesenbet, S., Lima, H. A., Yang, J., Munir, M. M., Shaikh, C. F., Azap, L., Katayama, E., Rueda, B. O., Guglielmi, A., Ruzzenente, et al
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- **Liver transplantation access and outcomes: Impact of variations in liver-specific specialty care.** *Surgery*
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- **An attempt to establish and apply global benchmarks for liver resection of malignant hepatic tumors.** *Surgery*
Alaimo, L., Moazzam, Z., Lima, H. A., Endo, Y., Ruzzenente, A., Guglielmi, A., Ratti, F., Aldrighetti, L., Weiss, M., Bauer, T. W., Alexandrescu, S., Popescu, I., Poultides, et al
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- **Survival Benefit Relative to Treatment Modalities Among Patients with Very Early Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma: an Analysis of the National Cancer Database.** *Journal of gastrointestinal surgery : official journal of the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract*
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- **Decreased Utilization Rate of Grafts for Liver Transplantation After Implementation of Acuity Circle-based Allocation.** *Transplantation*
Bekki, Y., Myers, B., Tomiyama, K., Imaoka, Y., Akabane, M., Kwong, A. J., Melcher, M. L., Sasaki, K.
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- **Debating the indication: re-transplant for patients whose initial transplant indication was hepatocellular carcinoma.** *HPB : the official journal of the International Hepato Pancreato Biliary Association*
Akabane, M., Melcher, M. L., Sasaki, K.
2023
- **Liver transplantation for elderly patients with early-stage hepatocellular carcinoma.** *The British journal of surgery*
Endo, Y., Sasaki, K., Moazzam, Z., Lima, H. A., Alaimo, L., Munir, M. M., Shaikh, C. F., Schenk, A., Kitago, M., Pawlik, T. M.
2023
- **Living Donor Liver Transplantation (LDLT) for Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) within and Outside Traditional Selection Criteria: A Multicentric North American Experience.** *Annals of surgery*
Ivanics, T., Claasen, M. P., Samstein, B., Emond, J. C., Fox, A. N., Pomfret, E., Pomposelli, J., Tabrizian, P., Florman, S. S., Mehta, N., Roberts, J. P., Emamaullee, J. A., Genyk, et al
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- **Left Lobe First with Purely Laparoscopic Approach: A Novel Strategy to Maximize Donor Safety in Adult Living Donor Liver Transplantation.** *Annals of surgery*
Fujiki, M., Pita, A., Kusakabe, J., Sasaki, K., You, T., Tuul, M., Aucejo, F. N., Quintini, C., Eghtesad, B., Pinna, A., Miller, C., Hashimoto, K., Kwon, et al
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- **The Impact of Colonic Allograft on Intestinal Transplantation Outcomes: Results from UNOS/OPTN Database**
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- **Liquid Biopsy by ctDNA in Liver Transplantation for Colorectal Cancer Liver Metastasis.** *Journal of gastrointestinal surgery : official journal of the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract*
Wehrle, C. J., Raj, R., Aykun, N., Orabi, D., Estfan, B., Kamath, S., Krishnamurthi, S., Fujiki, M., Hashimoto, K., Quintini, C., Kwon, D. C., Diago-Uso, T., Sasaki, et al
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- **The impact of recurrence timing and tumor burden score on overall survival among patients undergoing repeat hepatectomy for colorectal liver metastases.** *Journal of surgical oncology*
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- **Travel distance and social vulnerability index: Impact on liver-related mortality among patients with end-stage liver disease.** *Clinical transplantation*
Yang, J., Endo, Y., Moazzam, Z., Lima, H. A., Woldesenbet, S., Alaimo, L., Azap, L., Shaikh, C. F., Munir, M. M., Katayama, E., Sasaki, K., Pawlik, T. M.
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- **Impact of donor sex on hepatocellular carcinoma recurrence in liver transplantation after brain death.** *Clinical transplantation*
Nakamura, T., Sasaki, K., Kojima, L., Teo, R., Inaba, Y., Yamamoto, T., Kimura, S., Dageforde, L. A., Yeh, H., Elias, N., Bozorgzadeh, A., Kawai, T., Markmann, et al
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- **Liver Transplantation for Colorectal Liver Metastases: Hazard Function Analysis of Data from the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network.** *Journal of gastrointestinal surgery : official journal of the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract*
Endo, Y., Alaimo, L., Sasaki, K., Moazzam, Z., Yang, J., Schenk, A., Pawlik, T. M.
2023
- **The Impact of a Liver Transplant Program on the Outcomes of Hepatocellular Carcinoma.** *Annals of surgery*
Endo, Y., Sasaki, K., Moazzam, Z., Woldesenbet, S., Yang, J., Lima, H. A., Alaimo, L., Munir, M. M., Shaikh, C. F., Schenk, A., Kitago, M., Pawlik, T. M.

2023

- **Normothermic Regional Perfusion Can Improve Both Utilization and Outcomes in DCD Liver, Kidney, and Pancreas Transplantation.** *Transplantation direct*
 Bekki, Y., Croome, K. P., Myers, B., Sasaki, K., Tomiyama, K.
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- **Epstein-Barr virus-associated post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorders in pediatric transplantation: A prospective multicenter study in the United States**
 Tajima, T., Bernstein, D., Boyd, S. D., Gratzinger, D., Lum, G., Sasaki, K., Tan, B., Twist, C. J., Weinberg, K., Robien, M. A., Brown, M., Armstrong, B., Desai, et al
 WILEY.2023
- **Biliary complications following split liver transplantation in adult recipients: a matched pair analysis on single-center experience.** *Liver transplantation : official publication of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases and the International Liver Transplantation Society*
 Matsushima, H., Fujiki, M., Sasaki, K., Raj, R., D'Amico, G., Simioni, A., Aucejo, F., Diago Uso, T., Kwon, C. H., Eghtesad, B., Miller, C., Quintini, C., Eguchi, et al
 2023; 29 (3): 279-289
- **Evaluating the outcomes of donor-recipient age differences in young adults undergoing liver transplantation.** *Liver transplantation : official publication of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases and the International Liver Transplantation Society*
 Snyder, A., Kojima, L., Imaoka, Y., Akabane, M., Kwong, A., Melcher, M. L., Sasaki, K.
 2023
- **ASO Visual Abstract: The Current State of Liver Transplantation for Colorectal Liver Metastases in the United States: A Call for Standardized Reporting.** *Annals of surgical oncology*
 Sasaki, K., Ruffolo, L. I., Kim, M. H., Fujiki, M., Hashimoto, K., Imaoka, Y., Melcher, M. L., Aucejo, F. N., Tomiyama, K., Hernandez-Alejandro, R.
 2023
- **The impact of geographic location vs center practice on center volume in liver transplantation after acuity circle policy.** *Clinical transplantation*
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 2023: e14932
- **The Current State of Liver Transplantation for Colorectal Liver Metastases in the United States: A Call for Standardized Reporting.** *Annals of surgical oncology*
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- **ASO Author Reflections: At the Crossroad-Liver Transplantation for Unresectable Colorectal Liver Metastases in the United States.** *Annals of surgical oncology*
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- **The high incidence of occult carcinoma in total hepatectomy specimens of patients treated for unresectable colorectal liver metastases with liver transplant.** *Annals of surgery*
 Chavez-Villa, M., Ruffolo, L. I., Al-Judaibi, B. M., Fujiki, M., Hashimoto, K., Kallas, J., Kwon, C. H., Nair, A., Orloff, M. S., Pineda-Solis, K., Raj, R., Sasaki, K., Tomiyama, et al
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- **Comparison of outcomes of normothermic regional perfusion and rapid-recovery DCD livers**
 Nassar, A., Sellers, M., Bohorquez, H., Hobeika, M., Lee, D., Siddiqui, F., Alebrahim, M., Cannon, R., Neidlinger, N., Selvaggi, G., Abt, P., Sasaki, K., Monteno, et al
 ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2023: S18
- **Heart transplantation for pediatric foreign nationals in the United States.** *Clinical transplantation*
 Harano, T., Sheth, M., Sasaki, K., Yu, J., Wightman, S. C., Atay, S. M., Sainathan, S., Kim, A. W.
 2023: e14900
- **The future direction of liver transplantation for intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma** *HEPATOMA RESEARCH*
 Akabane, M., Imaoka, Y., Sasaki, K.
 2023; 9

- **IDENTIFYING NOVEL GENE TARGETS FOR DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF HCC IN ASIAN AND CAUCASIAN POPULATIONS BASED ON WHOLE GENOME SEQUENCING**
Hong, S., Badshah, J., Aliwaisi, A., Sasaki, K., Pruett, T., Melcher, M., Bonham, C., Gallo, A., Martinez, O., Krams, S., Pham, K., Busque, S., Reitsma, et al
ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2023: S28
- **Demystifying BRAF Mutation Status in Colorectal Liver Metastases: A Multi-institutional, Collaborative Approach to 6 Open Clinical Questions.** *Annals of surgery*
Margonis, G. A., Boerner, T., Bachet, J. B., Buettner, S., Moretto, R., Andreatos, N., Sartore-Bianchi, A., Wang, J., Kamphues, C., Gagniere, J., Lonardi, S., Løes, I. M., Wagner, et al
2022
- **Simultaneous versus staged resection for synchronous colorectal liver metastases: The win ratio approach.** *American journal of surgery*
Endo, Y., Alaimo, L., Araujo Lima, H., Tsilimigras, D. I., Hyer, J. M., Guglielmi, A., Ruzzenente, A., Alexandrescu, S., Poultsides, G., Sasaki, K., Aucejo, F., Pawlik, T. M.
2022
- **Higher Tumor Burden Status Dictates the Impact of Surgical Margin Status on Overall Survival in Patients Undergoing Resection of Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma.** *Annals of surgical oncology*
Endo, Y., Sasaki, K., Moazzam, Z., Lima, H. A., Alaimo, L., Guglielmi, A., Aldrighetti, L., Weiss, M., Bauer, T. W., Alexandrescu, S., Poultsides, G. A., Kitago, M., Maithel, et al
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- **Outcomes of Liver Transplantation in Patients with Preexisting Coronary Artery Disease.** *Transplantation*
Reznicek, E., Sasaki, K., Montane, B., Sims, A., Beard, J., Fares, M., Sharma, V., Cywinski, J., Quintini, C., Aucejo, F. N., Egtesad, B., Miller, C. M., Menon, et al
2022
- **Sequential hypothermic and normothermic perfusion preservation and transplantation of expanded criteria donor livers.** *Surgery*
Liu, Q., Del Prete, L., Ali, K., Grady, P., Bilancini, M., Etterling, J., D'Amico, G., Diago Uso, T., Hashimoto, K., Aucejo, F., Fujiki, M., Egtesad, B., Sasaki, et al
2022
- **Prognostic value of primary tumor sidedness in patients with non-metastatic IBD related CRC - Is it the exception to the rule?** *Surgical oncology*
Kamphues, C., Lefevre, J. H., Wang, J., Amini, N., Beaugerie, L., Kuehn, F., Park, S. H., Andreatos, N., Lauscher, J. C., Enea, D., Lehmann, K. S., Peru, N., Weixler, et al
2022; 45: 101874
- **Reevaluating Liver Donor Risk in the Era of Improved Hepatitis C Virus Treatment.** *JAMA surgery*
Handley, T. J., Arnow, K., Sasaki, K., Kwong, A., Melcher, M. L.
2022
- **Has the Risk of Liver Re-Transplantation Improved Over the Two Decades? A UNOS Data Analysis**
Kim, M. H., Melcher, M. L., Kirchner, V. A., Gallo, A. E., Bonham, C. A., Esquivel, C., Sasaki, K.
LIPPINCOTT WILLIAMS & WILKINS.2022: S294
- **Living Donor Liver Transplantation with Augmented Venous Outflow and Splenectomy: A Promised Land for Small Left Lobe Grafts.** *Annals of surgery*
Fujiki, M., Hashimoto, K., Quintini, C., Aucejo, F., Kwon, C. H., Matsushima, H., Sasaki, K., Campos, L., Egtesad, B., Diago, T., Iuppa, G., D'amico, G., Kumar, et al
2022
- **Impact of the donor hepatectomy time on short-term outcomes in liver transplantation using donation after circulatory death: A review of the US national registry.** *Clinical transplantation*
Bekki, Y., Kozato, A., Kusakabe, J., Tajima, T., Fujiki, M., Gallo, A., Melcher, M. L., Bonham, C. A., Sasaki, K.
2022: e14778
- **New-Onset Atrial Fibrillation in Patients Undergoing Liver Transplantation: Retrospective Analysis of Risk Factors and Outcomes.** *Journal of cardiothoracic and vascular anesthesia*
Rivas, E., Sasaki, K., Liang, C., Wang, J., Quintini, C., Maheshwari, K., Turan, A., Fares, M., Cywinski, J. B.
2022
- **Using Artificial Intelligence to Find the Optimal Margin Width in Hepatectomy for Colorectal Cancer Liver Metastases.** *JAMA surgery*

- Bertsimas, D., Margonis, G. A., Sujichantararat, S., Boerner, T., Ma, Y., Wang, J., Kamphues, C., Sasaki, K., Tang, S., Gagniere, J., Dupre, A., Loes, I. M., Wagner, et al
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- **KRAS alterations in colorectal liver metastases: shifting to exon, codon, and point mutations.** *The British journal of surgery*
 Olthof, P. B., Buettner, S., Andreatos, N., Wang, J., Løes, I. M., Wagner, D., Sasaki, K., Macher-Beer, A., Kamphues, C., Pozios, I., Seeliger, H., Morioka, D., Imai, et al
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 - **Using the win ratio to compare laparoscopic versus open liver resection for colorectal cancer liver metastases** *HEPATOBIILIARY SURGERY AND NUTRITION*
 Paro, A., Hyer, J., Avery, B. S., Tsilimigras, D. I., Bagante, F., Guglielmi, A., Ruzzenente, A., Alexandrescu, S., Poultides, G., Sasaki, K., Aucejo, F., Pawlik, T. M.
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 - **Early United States experience with liver donation after circulatory determination of death using thoraco-abdominal normothermic regional perfusion: A multi-institutional observational study.** *Clinical transplantation*
 Sellers, M. T., Nassar, A., Alebrahim, M., Sasaki, K., Lee, D. D., Bohorquez, H., Cannon, R. M., Selvaggi, G., Neidlinger, N., McMaster, W. G., Hoffman, J. R., Shah, A. S., Montenovio, et al
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 - **Recipient and Donor Outcomes After Living-Donor Liver Transplant for Unresectable Colorectal Liver Metastases.** *JAMA surgery*
 Hernandez-Alejandro, R., Ruffolo, L. I., Sasaki, K., Tomiyama, K., Orloff, M. S., Pineda-Solis, K., Nair, A., Errigo, J., Dokus, M. K., Cattral, M., McGilvray, I. D., Ghanekar, A., Gallinger, et al
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 - **Nontumor related risk score: A new tool to improve prediction of prognosis after hepatectomy for colorectal liver metastases.** *Surgery*
 Sasaki, K., Margonis, G. A., Moro, A., Wang, J., Wagner, D., Gagniere, J., Shin, J. K., D'Silva, M., Sahara, K., Miyata, T., Kusakabe, J., Beyer, K., Dupre, et al
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 - **Is Laterality Prognostic in Resected KRAS-Mutated Colorectal Liver Metastases? A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.** *Cancers*
 Belias, M., Sasaki, K., Wang, J., Andreatos, N., Kamphues, C., Kyriakos, G., Seeliger, H., Beyer, K., Kreis, M. E., Margonis, G. A.
 2022; 14 (3)
 - **A chronological review of 500 minimally invasive liver resections in a North American institution: overcoming stagnation and toward consolidation.** *Surgical endoscopy*
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 - **Transplantation of declined livers after normothermic perfusion.** *Surgery*
 Quintini, C., Del Prete, L., Simioni, A., Del Angel, L., Diago Uso, T., D'Amico, G., Hashimoto, K., Aucejo, F., Fujiki, M., Eghtesad, B., Sasaki, K., Kwon, C. H., Cywinski, et al
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