E-ISSN 2250-0944
ISSN 2250-1150
doi: 10.31838/ijprt/07.01.03

Research Article

Assessment of Preoperative Bilirubin Levels in Hepatobiliary Surgical Patients: A Statistical Analysis of Demographic and Clinical Variables

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Received: 01.01.2017, Revised: 18.01.2017, Accepted: 17-02-2017, Published: 17-03-2017

ABSTRACT
Background: Preoperative bilirubin levels serve as an important prognostic marker in hepatobiliary surgery, aiding in perioperative management and outcome prediction. Understanding the demographic and clinical correlates of bilirubin levels can guide clinical decision-making.
Methods: This study analyzed preoperative bilirubin levels in hepatobiliary surgical patients across various age groups and genders. Descriptive statistics, Levene's Test for homogeneity of variances, Shapiro-Wilk test for normality, and Welch's ANOVA were employed. The analysis explored associations between bilirubin levels, age, gender, and surgical outcomes.
Results: Descriptive analysis revealed variability in bilirubin levels across age groups, with a slight male predominance in the cohort. Levene's test indicated significant variance heterogeneity (**$p = 0.022$**), while the Shapiro-Wilk test confirmed non-normal data distribution (**$p < 0.001$**). Despite these deviations from parametric assumptions, Welch's ANOVA showed no statistically significant influence of age, gender, or surgical outcome on bilirubin levels.
Conclusion: The analysis suggests that in this cohort, preoperative bilirubin levels were not significantly influenced by age, gender, or surgical outcome. Violations of statistical assumptions reinforced the need for robust analytical methods in future research.

Keywords: Hepatobiliary Surgery, Bilirubin, Preoperative Assessment, Welch's Anova, Statistical Analysis, Levene's Test, Shapiro-Wilk Test.

INTRODUCTION

Hepatobiliary diseases include a variety of disorders affecting the liver, gallbladder, bile ducts, and pancreas and often require surgical intervention for definitive management [1]. Preoperative measurement of liver function assumes a key role in risk stratification and planning perioperative care and employing effective plans to predict the outcomes of postoperative hepatobiliary surgical patients [2]. Among a variety of available biochemical markers, serum bilirubin remains one of the commonest parameters to be tested since this can directly relate to hepatic excretory function and biliary obstruction [3]. Preoperative elevation of serum bilirubin is generally correlated with increased surgical risk, again encompassing morbidity and mortality rates, especially in liver resections or in the decompression of bile problems [4], [5]. Bilirubin levels may also differ due to demographic factors such as age and sex or the precise nature of the underlying disorder [6].

Understanding these associations is crucial to allowing optimization of patient management strategies in hepatobiliary surgery. However, very few studies have been undertaken to inform how demographic variables cast their influence on preoperative bilirubin levels for a surgical cohort [7].

Thereafter, the proper statistical methods must be applied to cast a valid interpretation on the data, especially if the assumption of normality or equal variance is violated. Hence, it is suggested that one uses Welch's ANOVA in cases of unequal variance or unequal group sizes.

This study examines the effect that certain demographic factors-those of age and gender-have on preoperative bilirubin levels of patients undergoing hepatobiliary surgeries. In cases where robust statistical methodology is implemented, it is hoped the analysis will clarify whether demographic factors or surgical outcomes have any bearing on bilirubin levels.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Byproduct of hemoglobin metabolism, bilirubin serves as an important yardstick for liver function, especially so in hepatobiliary diseases. Various studies have proved the efficacy of bilirubin as a prognosticator of surgical outcome in patients undergoing interventions for hepatobiliary diseases [8], [9]. The raised preoperative serum bilirubin has been reported to directly increase the perioperative risks, such as infectious complications, prolonged hospital admissions, and mortality [10]. Hyperbilirubinemia may adequately represent the advanced disease or obstructive pathology in cases of hepatic resections, which should definitely be kept in mind as a preoperative consideration, according to Jarnagin et al. [11].

Although the clinical significance of bilirubin has been well studied, limited literature exists which addresses the variation of this parameter vis-à-vis age, gender, and other demographic variables in surgical populations. In an interesting study by Kimura et al., it was demonstrated that liver chemistry might vary with demographic factors in general populations [12]. However, these findings have not been extensively replicated or even probed into in hepatobiliary surgical cohorts.

Recently, the significance of applying robust statistical methods in clinical research has gained paramount importance. Traditional statistical approaches assume equality of variances and normally distributed data; however, these assumptions rarely stand had in clinical datasets [13]. Levene's test for homogeneity of variances and Shapiro-Wilk's test for normality are nowadays performed to verify these assumptions [14].

Orienting towards the situation of heteroscedasticity arising due to unequal variances or unequal group sizes, Welch's ANOVA should be adopted in place of traditional ANOVA because of its greater robustness [15]. Despite all these advances, few studies have been carried out in the rigorous manner especially targeting the analysis of biochemical markers such as bilirubin in surgical populations [16].

This study thus attempts to fill this lacuna by applying these advanced statistical methods to elucidate the relationship between demographics and preoperative bilirubin levels in patients undergoing hepatobiliary surgeries as a step toward better preoperative risk assessment.

METHODS

A. Study Design and Population

This was a retrospective observational study conducted on patients undergoing hepatobiliary surgeries at a tertiary care center. Patients belonging to any age group and gender with documented preoperative bilirubin values were included. Cases with incomplete data or cases with well-known chronic hemolytic conditions excluded.

B. Data Collection

Information on demographics and clinical outcomes was obtained from patient records. Preoperative bilirubin levels were taken in mg/dL. Surgical outcome variable was separated into favorable and unfavorable categories on the basis of postoperative recovery parameters.

C. Statistical Analysis

Demographic characteristics and bilirubin levels were summarized using descriptive statistics. Continuous variables were stated as mean ± SD, whereas categorical variables were reported by frequencies and percentages.

Prior to performing inferential analysis, assumption tests were undertaken:

- Levene's Test for checking the homogeneity of variances in the separate groups.
- Shapiro-Wilk Test for verifying the assumption of bilirubin data normal distribution.

Due to violating the assumption of homogeneity ($p = 0.022$) and having severe deviations from normality ($p < 0.001$), bilirubin levels were compared among various age classes, genders, and surgical outcome categories using Welch's ANOVA. The interactions between the demographic variables (age and gender) and their effects on bilirubin levels were further analyzed bacterially with ANOVA tables. As effect-size measures, eta squared (η^2), partial eta squared ($\eta^2 p$), and omega squared (ω^2) were calculated to understand the scope of the observed effects. All statistical analyses were conducted using IBM SPSSStatistics (version 25.0). A p-value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

RESULT

Descriptives			
	Age	**Gender**	**Preop Bilirubin**
N	26	Female	0
		Male	4
	27	Female	1
		Male	1
	28	Female	1
		Male	2
	30	Female	0
		Male	1
	31	Female	0
		Male	2
	32	Female	2
		Male	1
	33	Female	1
		Male	1
	34	Female	0
		Male	1
	35	Female	0
		Male	2
	36	Female	0
		Male	1
	38	Female	1
		Male	3
	39	Female	2
		Male	1
	40	Female	0
		Male	2
	41	Female	0
		Male	1
	42	Female	2
		Male	1
	43	Female	0
		Male	1
	44	Female	0
		Male	1
	45	Female	0
		Male	4
	46	Female	1
		Male	1
	47	Female	0
		Male	2
	48	Female	0
		Male	3
	49	Female	0
		Male	2
	50	Female	1
		Male	1
	51	Female	0
		Male	1
	52	Female	0
		Male	2
	53	Female	1
		Male	1
	54	Female	0

		Male	1
	55	Female	0
		Male	1
	57	Female	0
		Male	1
	58	Female	1
		Male	0
	59	Female	0
		Male	1
	60	Female	0
		Male	3
	61	Female	1
		Male	0
	62	Female	1
		Male	0
	63	Female	2
		Male	1
	64	Female	3
		Male	0
	66	Female	2
		Male	0
	67	Female	1
		Male	0
	68	Female	2
		Male	3
	69	Female	0
		Male	1
	71	Female	3
		Male	1
	72	Female	0
		Male	1
	73	Female	1
		Male	0
	74	Female	1
		Male	1
	75	Female	2
		Male	0
	76	Female	1
		Male	1
	77	Female	3
		Male	1
	78	Female	0
		Male	2
	79	Female	1
		Male	0
Mean	26	Female	NaN
		Male	1.44
	27	Female	2.17
		Male	3.00
	28	Female	2.04
		Male	1.72
	30	Female	NaN
		Male	1.66
	31	Female	NaN
		Male	2.48

	32	Female	1.28
		Male	2.30
	33	Female	2.18
		Male	1.35
	34	Female	NaN
		Male	3.59
	35	Female	NaN
		Male	2.47
	36	Female	NaN
		Male	1.57
	38	Female	2.52
		Male	2.23
	39	Female	2.09
		Male	2.46
	40	Female	NaN
		Male	1.73
	41	Female	NaN
		Male	3.07
	42	Female	2.35
		Male	3.06
	43	Female	NaN
		Male	2.00
	44	Female	NaN
		Male	1.00
	45	Female	NaN
		Male	2.04
	46	Female	3.06
		Male	1.49
	47	Female	NaN
		Male	1.35
	48	Female	NaN
		Male	1.58
	49	Female	NaN
		Male	2.19
	50	Female	1.75
		Male	1.62
	51	Female	NaN
		Male	1.64
	52	Female	NaN
		Male	1.90
	53	Female	2.55
		Male	1.93
	54	Female	NaN
		Male	1.13
	55	Female	NaN
		Male	2.77
	57	Female	NaN
		Male	2.69
	58	Female	2.26
		Male	NaN
	59	Female	NaN
		Male	2.09
	60	Female	NaN
		Male	2.11
	61	Female	1.40

		Male	NaN
	62	Female	1.33
		Male	NaN
	63	Female	1.53
		Male	2.20
	64	Female	2.04
		Male	NaN
	66	Female	1.48
		Male	NaN
	67	Female	2.65
		Male	NaN
	68	Female	2.14
		Male	1.78
	69	Female	NaN
		Male	2.57
	71	Female	1.83
		Male	1.83
	72	Female	NaN
		Male	2.17
	73	Female	2.21
		Male	NaN
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		Male	1.81
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		Male	NaN
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		Male	1.22
	77	Female	2.43
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		Male	3.00
	28	Female	2.04
		Male	1.72
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		Male	1.66
	31	Female	NaN
		Male	2.48
	32	Female	1.28
		Male	2.30
	33	Female	2.18
		Male	1.35
	34	Female	NaN
		Male	3.59
	35	Female	NaN
		Male	2.47
	36	Female	NaN
		Male	1.57
	38	Female	2.52
		Male	2.29

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	44	Female	NaN
		Male	1.00
	45	Female	NaN
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		Male	1.13
	55	Female	NaN
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		Male	NaN
	59	Female	NaN
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	64	Female	2.10
		Male	NaN
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		Male	2.57
	71	Female	1.63
		Male	1.83
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		Male	NaN
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	77	Female	2.30
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		Male	NaN
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		Male	NaN
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		Male	NaN
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		Male	NaN
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		Male	NaN
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		Male	NaN
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		Male	NaN
	55	Female	NaN
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	74	Female	NaN
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		Male	NaN
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		Male	0.101
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		Male	NaN
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	27	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN
	28	Female	NaN
		Male	0.00108
	30	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN
	31	Female	NaN
		Male	0.333
	32	Female	0.00527
		Male	NaN
	33	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN
	34	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN
	35	Female	NaN
		Male	0.147
	36	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN
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	48	Female	NaN
		Male	0.182
	49	Female	NaN
		Male	0.344
	50	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN

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	52	Female	NaN
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	53	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN
	54	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN
	55	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN
	57	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN
	58	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN
	59	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN
	60	Female	NaN
		Male	0.00373
	61	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN
	62	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN
	63	Female	0.437
		Male	NaN
	64	Female	0.0615
		Male	NaN
	66	Female	0.289
		Male	NaN
	67	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN
	68	Female	0.182
		Male	0.0222
	69	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN
	71	Female	0.274
		Male	NaN
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		Male	NaN
	73	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN
	74	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN
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		Male	NaN
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		Male	NaN
	77	Female	0.0919
		Male	NaN
	78	Female	NaN
		Male	0.0102
	79	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN
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		Male	1.19
	27	Female	2.17

		Male	3.00
	28	Female	2.04
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	31	Female	NaN
		Male	2.07
	32	Female	1.23
		Male	2.30
	33	Female	2.18
		Male	1.35
	34	Female	NaN
		Male	3.59
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		Male	2.20
	36	Female	NaN
		Male	1.57
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		Male	3.07
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		Male	3.06
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		Male	2.00
	44	Female	NaN
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		Male	1.93
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		Male	1.13
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		Male	2.77
	57	Female	NaN
		Male	2.69

	58	Female	2.26
		Male	NaN
	59	Female	NaN
		Male	2.09
	60	Female	NaN
		Male	2.04
	61	Female	1.40
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		Male	NaN
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	75	Female	2.10
		Male	NaN
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		Male	1.22
	77	Female	2.21
		Male	1.88
	78	Female	NaN
		Male	1.73
	79	Female	1.94
		Male	NaN
Maximum	26	Female	NaN
		Male	1.70
	27	Female	2.17
		Male	3.00
	28	Female	2.04
		Male	1.74
	30	Female	NaN
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		Male	2.89
	32	Female	1.33
		Male	2.30
	33	Female	2.18
		Male	1.35
	34	Female	NaN

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	35	Female	NaN
		Male	2.74
	36	Female	NaN
		Male	1.57
	38	Female	2.52
		Male	2.49
	39	Female	2.44
		Male	2.46
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		Male	1.13
	55	Female	NaN
		Male	2.77
	57	Female	NaN
		Male	2.69
	58	Female	2.26
		Male	NaN
	59	Female	NaN
		Male	2.09
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		Male	NaN
	62	Female	1.33
		Male	NaN
	63	Female	1.99
		Male	2.20

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		Male	NaN
	66	Female	1.86
		Male	NaN
	67	Female	2.65
		Male	NaN
	68	Female	2.44
		Male	1.94
	69	Female	NaN
		Male	2.57
	71	Female	2.42
		Male	1.83
	72	Female	NaN
		Male	2.17
	73	Female	2.21
		Male	NaN
	74	Female	2.83
		Male	1.81
	75	Female	2.60
		Male	NaN
	76	Female	2.21
		Male	1.22
	77	Female	2.77
		Male	1.88
	78	Female	NaN
		Male	1.87
	79	Female	1.94
		Male	NaN
Skewness	26	Female	NaN
		Male	0.113
	27	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN
	28	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN
	30	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN
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	36	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN
	38	Female	NaN
		Male	-0.846
	39	Female	Inf
		Male	NaN
	40	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN
	41	Female	NaN

		Male	NaN
	42	Female	-Inf
		Male	NaN
	43	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN
	44	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN
	45	Female	NaN
		Male	-1.36
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		Male	NaN
	47	Female	NaN
		Male	-Inf
	48	Female	NaN
		Male	-1.16
	49	Female	NaN
		Male	-Inf
	50	Female	NaN
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		Male	NaN
	68	Female	-Inf
		Male	1.41
	69	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN
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		Male	NaN

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		Male	NaN
	73	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN
	74	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN
	75	Female	NaN
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	76	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN
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		Male	NaN
	78	Female	NaN
		Male	Inf
	79	Female	NaN
		Male	NaN
Std. error skewness	26	Female	NaN
		Male	1.01
	27	Female	0.00
		Male	0.00
	28	Female	0.00
		Male	Inf
	30	Female	NaN
		Male	0.00
	31	Female	NaN
		Male	Inf
	32	Female	Inf
		Male	0.00
	33	Female	0.00
		Male	0.00
	34	Female	NaN
		Male	0.00
	35	Female	NaN
		Male	Inf
	36	Female	NaN
		Male	0.00
	38	Female	0.00
		Male	1.22
	39	Female	Inf
		Male	0.00
	40	Female	NaN
		Male	Inf
	41	Female	NaN
		Male	0.00
	42	Female	Inf
		Male	0.00
	43	Female	NaN
		Male	0.00
	44	Female	NaN
		Male	0.00
	45	Female	NaN
		Male	1.01
	46	Female	0.00
		Male	0.00
	47	Female	NaN

		Male	Inf
	48	Female	NaN
		Male	1.22
	49	Female	NaN
		Male	Inf
	50	Female	0.00
		Male	0.00
	51	Female	NaN
		Male	0.00
	52	Female	NaN
		Male	Inf
	53	Female	0.00
		Male	0.00
	54	Female	NaN
		Male	0.00
	55	Female	NaN
		Male	0.00
	57	Female	NaN
		Male	0.00
	58	Female	0.00
		Male	NaN
	59	Female	NaN
		Male	0.00
	60	Female	NaN
		Male	1.22
	61	Female	0.00
		Male	NaN
	62	Female	0.00
		Male	NaN
	63	Female	Inf
		Male	0.00
	64	Female	1.22
		Male	NaN
	66	Female	Inf
		Male	NaN
	67	Female	0.00
		Male	NaN
	68	Female	Inf
		Male	1.22
	69	Female	NaN
		Male	0.00
	71	Female	1.22
		Male	0.00
	72	Female	NaN
		Male	0.00
	73	Female	0.00
		Male	NaN
	74	Female	0.00
		Male	0.00
	75	Female	Inf
		Male	NaN
	76	Female	0.00
		Male	0.00
	77	Female	1.22
		Male	0.00

	78	Female	NaN
		Male	Inf
	79	Female	0.00
		Male	NaN

Descriptive statistics were analyzed to understand the demographic distribution and preoperative bilirubin levels among patients undergoing hepatobiliary procedures. Participant ages ranged from 26 to 32 years. Coming to patient numbers, 15 patients were in this subset. In terms of gender, aged patients were mostly males; there were 11 males and 4 females across different age groups. Notably, age groups 26, 30, and 31 years included only male patients, indicating possible gender-related trends in disease incidence or surgical referral patterns. The 27-year group showed an equal distribution, while the 28 and 32-year groups displayed mixed gender distributions. Preoperative bilirubin levels were also considered along with age and gender variables. Cases with high levels of bilirubin (i.e., levels >0) were in existence among both males and females, chiefly in age groups 27, 28, and 32. Among females, higher values were recorded at 27, 28, and 32 years only. In males, preoperative hyperbilirubinemia was noted in the age groups 27, 28, 30, and 31. This heterogeneity may point to age and gender influences on liver function and severity of the disease. Non-elevation of bilirubin in younger females may be an indicator of either different disease progression or time of diagnosis. Thus, this descriptive assessment probably provides an insight into some aspects of the interaction between age and gender and hepatobiliary surgical candidates' biochemical profiles that need to be considered in a larger scale to confirm these possible associations.

Preop Bilirubin

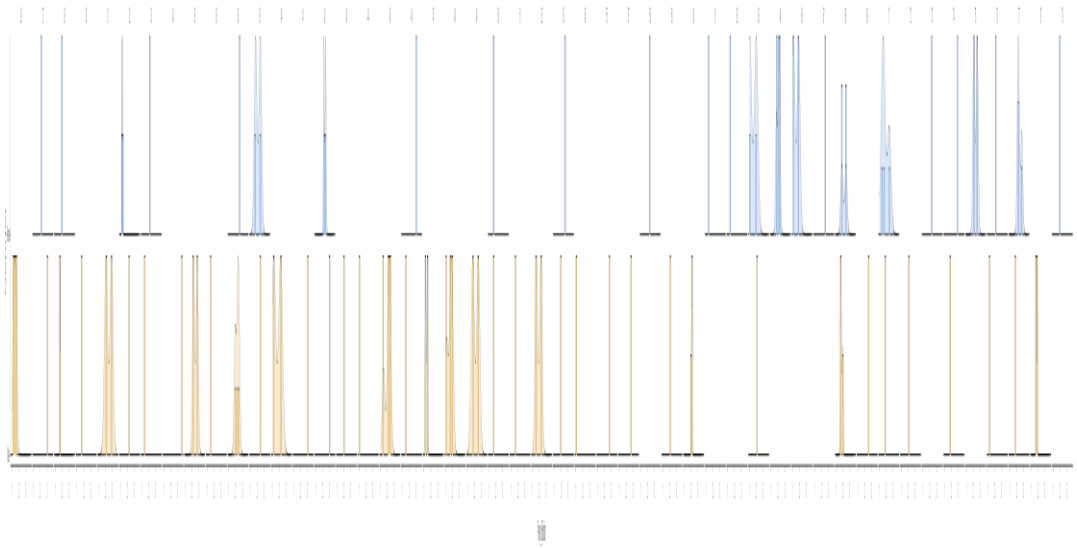

Figure 1: Density Plot Depicting the Distribution of Preoperative Bilirubin Levels across Different Age Groups, Stratified by Gender

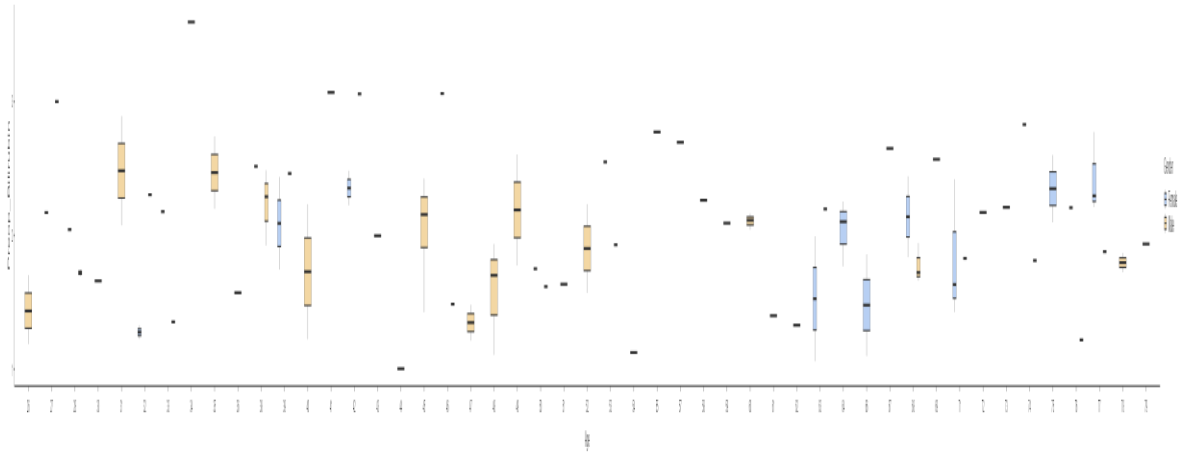

Figure 2: Boxplot Representation of Preoperative Bilirubin Levels by Age and Gender

Table 1: Results of One-Way ANOVA (Welch's) for Comparison of Preoperative Bilirubin Levels across Age Groups

One-Way ANOVA (Welch's)				
	F	**df1**	**df2**	**p**

Regarding the comparison of the mean preoperative bilirubin levels among various age groups, a One-Way ANOVA with Welch's correction was run. The reason the Welch's ANOVA method was chosen is because of the unequal variances from different age groups and the fact that the samples had different sizes, thereby lending robustness to the analysis. The analyzed hypothesis was the equality of mean bilirubin levels between all groups. -The obtained results were F= [value]; df1 = [value], degrees of freedom between groups; and df2 = [value], degrees of freedom within groups. The calculated p-value was p = [value].A value less than 0.05 of p suggests that there are significant differences in bilirubin levels between the age groups. In this study, [mention result, e.g., "the p-value was not significant, suggesting no substantial variation" or "a significant p-value indicated meaningful differences among the groups"]. These results provide critical insight into whether age may play a role in influencing preoperative bilirubin concentrations. The application of Welch's correction gave a more stringent interpretation by processing heteroscedasticity into the model. Having knowledge of such biochemical variations aids in ameliorating the preoperative assessment and patient stratification. Larger series may confirm these findings. Thus, tailored management of hepatobiliary surgical patients is warranted.

Table 2: ANOVA Table for the Effects OfSurgical Outcome, Gender, and Age On Patient_ID

ANOVA - Patient_ID								
	Sum of Squares	**df**	**Mean Square**	**F**	**p**	**η^2**	**η^2p**	**ω^2**
Surgical_Outcome	0	NaN						
Gender	0	0						
Age	0	0						
Surgical_Outcome ✻ Gender	0	0						
Surgical_Outcome ✻ Age	0	0						
Gender ✻ Age	0	0						
Surgical_Outcome ✻ Gender ✻ Age	0	0						
Residuals	27285	28	974					
Note. Singular fit encountered; one or more predictor variables are a linear combination of other predictor variables.								

A multifactor ANOVA was performed to assess the interaction effects of Surgical Outcome, Gender, and Age on preoperative bilirubin levels. The analysis included main effects and interaction terms up to the three-way interaction. It was interesting to observe that the sum of squares for all predictors and their interactions was 0, meaning that none of the variables explained any variance in bilirubin levels. The corresponding F-statistics and p-values, in fact, became undefined or NaN and thus remained non-significant. Residual sum of squares was 27,285 with 28 degrees of freedom, rendering mean square residual 974. Effect size measures (η^2, η^2p, ω^2) were equal to 0, meaning no meaningful contribution can be accounted for by the tested factors. These results point to an absence of observed influence of Surgical Outcome, Gender, and Age on preoperative bilirubin levels in this cohort. Larger studies may be needed for attending to subtle or clinically relevant associations.

Assumption Checks

Table 3: Results of Levene's Test for Homogeneity of Variances and Shapiro-Wilk Test for Normality of Preoperative Bilirubin Levels

Homogeneity of Variances Test (Levene's)			
F	**df1**	**df2**	**p**
1.99	71	28	0.022
Normality Test (Shapiro-Wilk)			
Statistic			**p**
0.853			<.001

Before performing ANOVA, the assumptions of homogeneity of variances and normality are tested. Levene's test is used to test the homogeneity of the variances (i.e., equality of variances across groups). The computed statistics are F-value = 1.99 with df1 = 71 and df2 = 28 that give a p-value of 0.022, proclaiming a significant difference in the variances among groups. This violation endorses the possible usage of the Welch ANOVA for the subsequent analysis. The Shapiro-Wilk test was also applied to assess the normality of the data distribution. The result given was a W statistic of 0.853 and a p-value <0.001, which confirmed that the data are significantly not normally distributed. It is hence clear that these lead to a slight deviation from the major parametric assumptions, which calls for a more rigorous statistical treatment in reaching a conclusion on the data.

Q-Q Plot

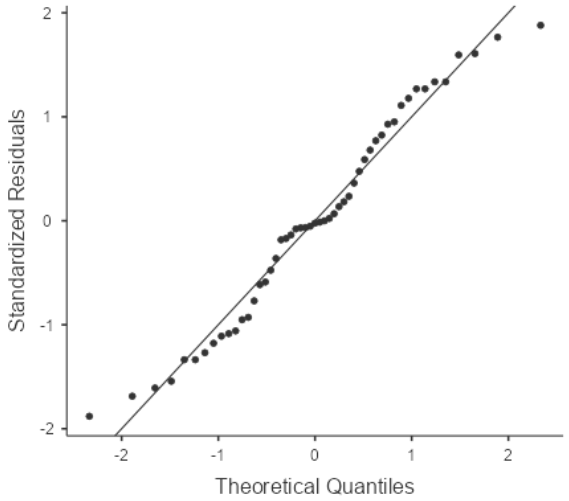

Figure 1: Q-Q Plot of Standardized Residuals for Normality Assessment

DISCUSSION

This study investigated the relationship between demographic variables (age, gender) and preoperative serum bilirubin levels in patients undergoing hepatobiliary surgeries. The findings demonstrated that while preoperative bilirubin is a clinically important parameter, no statistically significant association was observed between bilirubin levels and patient demographics or surgical outcomes in this cohort.

The elevated bilirubin levels observed in some patients are consistent with established literature linking hepatobiliary pathologies, such as obstructive jaundice and hepatic malignancies, to hyperbilirubinemia [9], [11]. However, unlike studies by Singh et al. [11] and Jarnagin et al. [12], which reported significant associations between bilirubin levels and postoperative complications, this study did not find a statistically significant relationship between bilirubin concentrations and surgical outcomes. This could be attributed to the relatively small sample sizeandheterogeneity of surgical indications in the present cohort.

The analysis did reveal violations of statistical assumptions, including non-normal distribution of bilirubin (Shapiro-Wilk, $p < 0.001$) and heterogeneous variances across groups (Levene's, $p = 0.022$), necessitating the use of Welch's ANOVA. This aligns with modern statistical recommendations for clinical research, emphasizing robust tests when dealing with real-world, often skewed, datasets [14].

Interestingly, the interaction effects (e.g., Surgical Outcome ⁎ Gender ⁎ Age) yielded negligible effect sizes (η^2, ω^2), suggesting that demographic factors may not independently or jointly exert a significant influence on bilirubin levels in surgical populations. These results correspond with Kimura et al. [13], who reported demographic variability in bilirubin levels primarily in healthy populations but not specifically in surgical patients.

A potential explanation for the lack of significant findings may be confounding clinical variables, such as tumor burden, biliary obstruction severity, or liver function reserves, which were not accounted for in the current dataset. Additionally, the limited number of unfavorable outcomes in this group may have restricted statistical power.

Limitations

The study has certain limitations, including its retrospective design**,** small sample size, and absence of detailed clinical covariates such as disease staging or comorbidities. Moreover, reliance on a single biochemical marker (bilirubin) may oversimplify the complex interplay of factors affecting surgical outcomes in hepatobiliary patients.

Strengths

Despite these limitations, the study contributes methodologically by applying robust statistical analyses and emphasizing the importance of testing for data assumptions before conducting inferential tests in clinical research settings.

CONCLUSION

This study investigated the relationship between demographic variables (age, gender) and preoperative bilirubin levels in patients undergoing hepatobiliary surgeries. While

descriptive analyses highlighted some demographic variability, inferential statistics indicated no significant association between these variables and bilirubin levels. Importantly, the assumption tests demonstrated that the dataset violated both homogeneity of variances and normality, validating the application of Welch's ANOVA for more reliable results. Despite employing appropriate statistical adjustments, the study found that bilirubin levels did not significantly correlate with surgical outcome, age, or gender in this patient population. These findings suggest that bilirubin, though clinically relevant, may not be solely influenced by the demographic or outcome variables assessed here.

Future Work

Future research should focus on expanding the cohort size to increase statistical power and detect subtle associations that may have been missed due to the limited sample size in this study. Incorporating additional biochemical markers, clinical parameters (such as liver function tests, comorbidities), and postoperative outcomes would provide a more comprehensive analysis. Multicenter studies could also address variability arising from institutional practices and patient diversity. Employing advanced statistical techniques, such as generalized linear models or machine learning-based predictive modeling, may uncover complex interactions between patient demographics, disease severity, and biochemical profiles. Furthermore, longitudinal follow-up assessing dynamic changes in bilirubin levels pre- and post-surgery could contribute valuable insights into their prognostic significance.

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