Wednesday, July 2nd, 2025 | Hands-on surgical anatomy course

Fascia derived dissections during the Whipple procedure: Proof of concept to preserve the integrity of resection margins

Course directors:
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Lecturers:
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This interdisciplinary course has its focus on the peripancreatic area and on the visualization of the ventral and dorsal fascial planes in order to preserve their integrity during pancreatoduodenectomy. Since the pancreas is an organ of secondary retroperitoneal origin, the pancreatic mesentery, so-called “mesopancreas” should be resected. This concept can be translated to the pancreas from colorectal surgery, where the resection of the mesocolon and the mesorectum is standard in surgical practice.

With this course, we would like to demonstrate that the peripancreatic fascial planes can be utilized in a similar fashion. This mobilization is carried out in the early steps during pancreatoduodenectomy before a “point of no return” is reached. With this technique, it is possible (1) to preserve the fascial systems and the resection margins from the beginning of the resection and (2) to abort the operation and embark on neoadjuvant strategies if margin clearance seems impossible from the beginning of the operation.

The surgical-anatomical preparations will be carried out on 6 recently deceased and non-fixed body donors with the support of the Department of Anatomy of the Heinrich-Heine University of Dusseldorf.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Dusseldorf!

Prof. Dr. med. Wolfram Trudo Knoefel

PD Dr. med. Sami Alexander Safi

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