Should pancreaticoduodenectomy be performed in the elderly?

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Résumé en anglais	**BACKGROUND/AIMS:** Pancreaticoduodenectomy (PD) is indicated in benign or malignant pancreatic head diseases. It is a difficult operation with high morbidity especially in elderly patients. The aim of our study was to determine whether pancreaticoduodenectomy is associated with higher morbidity and mortality in patients ≥ 70 years old. **METHODOLOGY:** During 17 years, 173 patients were operated by Whipple intervention, whatever the disease. From a prospective database, patients were divided in 2 groups (Group A ≥ 70 years old, Group B <70). **RESULTS:** Postoperative mortality was not significantly higher in elderly (12% vs. 4.1%; p=0.06). However, re-intervention and morbidity were more important in univariate analysis (p=0.03 and p=0.002 respectively). In multivariate analysis, age ≥ 70 years old was not an independent prognostic factor of mortality (p=0.27) and re-intervention (p=0.07). Whereas age (p=0.04) and preoperative morbidity (p=0.02) were independent prognostic factors of morbidity. **CONCLUSIONS:** PD requires careful patient selection. However, age should not be a limiting factor.
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