

### Question 18 – Week of December 3

All of the following statements regarding transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt (TIPS) placement are true except?:

- A. TIPS may be associated with improvement in nutritional status and quality of life
- B. Medically controlled hepatic encephalopathy does not absolutely contraindicate TIPS
- C. TIPS may be associated with improved patient survival
- D. TIPS is definitely contraindicated in the presence of portal vein thrombosis
- E. TIPS is associated with high-output congestive heart failure

**Answer: D**

TIPS has been associated with improvement in quality of life and nutritional status. Though associated with increased risk of post TIPS hepatic encephalopathy, controlled hepatic encephalopathy is a relative but not absolute contraindication to TIPS. A number of meta-analysis have identified a survival benefit of TIPS though this has been refuted by other meta-analytical studies. TIPS have been placed in selected patients with portal vein thrombosis with good reported outcomes. TIPS has been associated with high-output cardiac failure.

Reference:

1. Boyer TD, Haskal ZJ; American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases. [The Role of Transjugular Intrahepatic Portosystemic Shunt \(TIPS\) in the Management of Portal Hypertension: update 2009.](#) *Hepatology*. 2010 Jan;51(1):306.