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Kidney Transplantation in Asian Americans: New York Experience

John C.L. Wang, MD, PhD, New York, New York



Abstract

Kidney transplantation has become the treatment of choice for most patients with end-stage renal disease, following the recognition that the quality of life for a patient with a successful transplant can be superior to that for a patient on dialysis. At the Rogosin Kidney Center, The New York Hospital/Cornell Medical Center, about 1,700 kidney transplants were performed in the past three decades. We had reported previously the experience of Chinese patients who received a kidney transplant at our Center from 1974 to 1989. This update includes all Asian patients since that period.

Three hundred and seven patients have been transplanted since 1990. Of these patients, 46 were Asian: 32 received a cadaveric renal transplant (CRT) and 14 received kidneys from living related donors (LRD). In comparison, 85 non-Asians received LRD and 176 received CRT during this same period. Non-Asian includes white, black and Hispanic. Immunosuppressive medications are corticosteroid, azathioprine, and cyclosporine-A.

The three-year graft survival rate was 94% in Asian CRT and 75% in non-Asian, The three-year patient survival rate was 94% in Asian and 90% in non-Asian. For LRD, the three year graft survival rate was 93% in Asian and 94% in non-Asian. Only one patient in each of the Asian and the non-Asian LRD groups died as a complication of the transplantation.

The report shows that Asian patients with end-stage renal disease enjoy similar, if not better, success in kidney transplantation and should be encouraged to receive such therapy.