Update on Transplant Nephrology: How Relevant Is It to You?

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Famous People with A Kidney Transplant

George Lopez Sarah Hyland

Natalie Cole

Ivan Klasnic Lucy Davis

Sean Elliott

Alonzo Mourning

Tracy Morgan Gary Coleman Jimmy Ittlee

Ron Springs – Everson Walls

Ken Howard Jennifer Harman

Steve Cojocaru Neil Simon
A Baltimore Raven gave a Kidney to a Pittsburgh Steeler

"He couldn't play anymore, and I didn't want to be in a position where he couldn't play but I'd keep playing- so I quit football and gave him my kidney."

“The kidney we got from Ma’ake was probably the largest normal kidney I’ve ever seen,” Dr. Bartlett.

Ma'ake Kemoeatu

Chris Kemoeatu
Selena Gomez
Which of these statements is correct?

A. The leading causes of death after kidney transplantation are infection followed by malignancy especially lymphoma.

B. Due to the side effects of lifelong immunosuppression, transplant patients have the same survival as dialysis patients but have a much better quality of life being free from regular dialysis treatments.

C. Patients are officially listed for kidney transplantation once they begin dialysis therapy with either hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis.

D. The average waiting time for a kidney transplant in the U.S. is approximately 1-2 years.

E. All are correct.

F. None are correct.
Which of these drugs is nephrotoxic?

A. Mycophenolate Mofetil (Cellcept, Myfortic)
B. Calcineurin inhibitors (Prograf, Cyclosporin, Tacrolimus)
C. Azathioprine (Imuran)
D. Corticosteroids (Prednisone, Medrol)
E. mTOR inhibitors (Rapamycin, Sirolimus, Everolimus)
F. Belatacept
G. All are nephrotoxic
H. I have no idea what most of these drugs are !!
I. None are nephrotoxic
End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Options

- Hemodialysis
- Peritoneal dialysis
- Transplantation
- No Treatment
Conservative Care Option for ESRD

• Not every patient will demonstrate an improved quality of life with the initiation of renal replacement therapy

• For ESRD patients > 70 years old – discontinuation of dialysis is responsible for 22% of all deaths

• Extensive co-morbidities may influence the decision to offer renal replacement therapy
Once the GFR < 20 cc/min pts can be listed for TP. Those pts that decided never to have RRT had a significantly higher mortality at all time periods as the GFR declined compared to the group that chose RRT in spite of standard nephrology care.

Major demographic differences for the conservative care group:
- Age > 80
- ASVD
- ASHD

Initiation of RRT is a shared decision between the nephrologist / patient and family.

Median survival 1.7 years without RRT
Questions to be Answered About the Option of Kidney Transplantation

- Prolong Life?
- Cost Effectiveness
- Availability
- Eligibility
Expected Remaining Lifetimes in ESRD Patients, Transplant Patients and U.S. Population

Survival for ESRD patients is > 60% lower at every age group compared to the general population
Does Dialysis Actually Replace Kidney Function?

All Dialysis patients remain with significant CKD and a markedly higher risk of CVD.
Cardiovascular Disease and ESRD Patients Waiting for Kidney Transplantation

CV rate (per 1000 pt yrs)

ESRD- Wait Listed

Causes of Death in ESRD and CKD Patients

Cardiovascular Disease
Transplantation significantly prolongs survival even up to 80 years old but still remains 20-30% lower than the normal population.
Outcome of Kidney Transplantation

Living donor TP are significantly more successful for long term survival than cadaveric TP.
Influence of Donor Source on Renal Allograft Survival

- Living Related 2 Haplotype Match: > 25 years
- Living Related 1 Haplotype Match: 15-17 years
- Living Related 0 Haplotype Match or Living Un-Related: 13-15 years
- Cadaver donor: 9 years
Outcome of Kidney Transplantation based on Etiology of ESRD

Due to multiple co-morbid conditions, patients with Diabetes experience the lowest graft survival with Living or cadaveric donors but still have a survival advantage over patients remaining on dialysis.
Projected **EXTRA** Years of Life Provided by Kidney Transplantation Compared to Dialysis

Transplantation provides a longer life for patients with Diabetes compared to Non Diabetics as opposed to staying on dialysis for age < 60 yrs old.
GFR Achieved by Different Renal Replacement Options

- **ESRD**
  - GFR < 10 cc/min

- **Stage 2-3 CKD**
  - HD/PD
  - GFR ~ 20 cc/min

- **Stage 4 CKD**
  - Kidney TP
  - GFR ~ 60-70 cc/min

- **Stage 5 CKD**
  - ESRD
  - GFR < 10 cc/min
CKD and Renal Transplantation

Renal TP

- Stage 1: 6%
- Stage 2: 26%
- Stage 3: 62%
- Stage 4: 5%
- Stage 5: 1%

NHANES

- Stage 1: 92.4%
- Stage 2: 3.0%
- Stage 3: 4.3%
- Stage 4: 0.2%
- Slice 5: 0.1%
Cardiovascular Disease in CKD and ESRD

Estimated GFR

CV events / 100 person years

- Stage 2
- Stage 3A
- Stage 3b
- Stage 4
- Stage 5

Transplant

ESRD

> 60
45 - 59
30 - 44
15 - 29
< 15

Stage 2
Stage 3A
Stage 3b
Stage 4
Stage 5

2.11
3.65
11.25
21.8
36.6
Causes of Death in TP, ESRD and CKD Patients

Cardiovascular Disease
Criteria for Listing for Kidney Transplantation

- GFR ≤ 20 cc/min
- Age < 80 years old
- EF > 35-40%
- No Active CVD
- No PVD
- No active infection
- No active malignancy
- Compliance
Patient Selection

- Unique challenges
  - HIV
    - Patients with HIV are eligible as long as they are on therapy (HAART- Highly Active Anti Retroviral Therapy) and have undetectable HIV viral load by PCR and a CD4 count > 200/ml
    - May receive an HIV + cadaver donor kidney
  - Hepatitis C
    - A serious cause of progressive cirrhosis in dialysis patients and after transplantation
    - Patients need to be monitored closely with liver biopsies and viral load studies
    - HCV positive donors may be used for positive patients
      - Delay HCV treatment until after the transplant
The ESRD Facts

• The increased mortality of patients on dialysis is due to accelerated CVD

• Kidney transplantation offers the only renal replacement therapy that significantly improves quality of life and life expectancy

• Dialysis provides an average GFR of 20 cc/min (Stage 4) while kidney transplantation results in a GFR 60-70 cc/min (Stage 2-3 CKD)

• Risk of CVD is reduced but still present in transplant recipients

• Not every patient is a candidate for RRT (renal replacement therapy)
The Growth of the Dialysis Population Continues to Increase
Diabetes as a Cause of ESRD: International Data

44%

2 million ESRD patients worldwide
Second Fastest Growing Cause of Worldwide Mortality (HIV/AIDS)
Growing Prevalence of Diabetic Nephropathy on the Transplant Waiting List
Projected growth of prevalent dialysis and transplant populations
Kidney Transplants Per Year – Minimal Rise

102,809 on the Kidney Waitlist

In 2018, 21,167 kidney transplants took place – 14,725 deceased donors and 6,442 living donors
Organ TP 2000 - 2018

2018: More transplants than ever

More than 36,500 transplants
6th consecutive record breaking year.

Nearly 6,900 living donor transplants in 2018.
Highest total since 2005.

www.UNOS.org
Distribution of Kidney Donors

- Cadaver Donor: 70.5%
- Living Donor: 29.5%
Growing Disproportion Between Patients on the Waiting List and Those That are Transplanted
Transplant Waiting List : September 12, 2019

124,030 Candidates for a Solid Organ Transplant
Time on Dialysis Waiting for a Transplant Affects the Outcome of Transplantation

Getting a Transplant before going on dialysis provides the best chance for graft survival. The longer a patient is on dialysis, the worse the graft outcome after transplantation.
Patients are Waiting Longer and Longer for a Kidney Transplant

Average waiting time 3-4 years
15% of patients are on the list > 5 years
Wide variation in Cadaveric Donation Rates in the U.S.

Cadaveric Kidney Donation rates (per 1000 deaths)
Significant Decrease in Related Living Donor Kidney Transplants

• The epidemic and concordance of obesity, HTN and Diabetes within a given family has led to the disqualification of a significant proportion of potential living donors.

• The impact of DM in the U.S. affects not only the patients developing ESRD but also impacts their potential living organ donors.
Kidney Donors

• **Deceased donors (DDK)**

• **Living related donors (LRD)**
  • HLA identical (ie sibling)
  • One-haplotype match (ie parent, sibling)
  • No HLA match

• **Living unrelated donors (LURD)**
  • Spouse
  • Friend
  • ‘Swapping’ programs – Paired exchange
  • Altruistic

Transplanting patients PRE-EMPTIVELY is the goal!
How are Kidneys Allocated to Recipients on the List?
Who Gets the Next Kidney from the List?

It used to be this ..... 

Now it is like this ..... 

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sequence A</th>
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<td>KDPI &lt;= 20%</td>
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OPTN
The best kidneys are mandated to go to the best recipients.
Allocation of Cadaveric Kidneys: Maximizing the Outcomes

• December 4, 2014 marked a turning point in the distribution of cadaveric kidneys with the creation of 2 new indices – EPTS / KPDI

• Donor KDPI (Kidney donor Prognostic Index)
  • Age
  • Height
  • Weight
  • Ethnicity
  • History of Hypertension
  • History of Diabetes
  • Cause of Death
  • Serum Creatinine
  • Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Status
  • Donation after Circulatory Death (DCD) Status
Estimated Post Transplant Survival

- Current diagnosis of diabetes
- Duration on dialysis
- Any prior solid organ transplant
- Candidate’s age

EPTS score range 0%-100%
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No Priority Given to Pre-emptive Patients – Time Accumulated on the List Based on Dialysis Time
Which of these statements is correct?

A. Referral for kidney transplantation should be limited to how sick a patient is on dialysis and only if the potential recipient has a living donor.

B. Due to the side effects of lifelong immunosuppression, transplant patients have the same survival as dialysis patients but have a much better quality of life being free from regular dialysis treatments.

C. Patients are officially listed for kidney transplantation once they begin dialysis therapy with either hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis.

D. The average waiting time for a kidney transplant in the U.S. is approximately 1-2 years.

E. All are correct

F. None are correct
What Needs to Be Done to Improve Transplant Opportunities: Action Is Warranted
HIV patients and Kidney Transplantation....

Outcomes of Kidney Transplantation in HIV-Infected Recipients

Peter G. Stock, M.D., Ph.D., Burc Barin, M.S., Barbara Murphy, M.D., Douglas Hanto, M.D., Ph.D., Jorge M. Diego, M.D., Jimmy Light, M.D., Charles Davis, M.D., Emily Blumberg, M.D., David Simon, M.D., Ph.D., Aruna Subramanian, M.D., J. Michael Millis, M.D., G. Marshall Lyon, M.D., et al., for the HIV-TR Investigators


HIV- kidneys transplanted into recipients with HIV (under cART)
CD4 > 200
Undetectable viral load
• Excellent patient and graft survival rate
• Higher risk of rejection
• Conclusion
  • HIV+ patients selected on the basis of having good viral control can successfully receive kidney transplants
Transplantation in HIV Patients

- HIV infected individuals are 28% less likely to receive a transplant overall.
- 50% lower chance of getting a living donor kidney.
But there is H.O.P.E. for HIV Patients

HIV Organ Policy Equity Act  
Signed February 14, 2013

Authorizes clinical research and the revision of rules about organ donation and transportation as a result of the research. Organs from HIV donors would only be going to individuals who are already HIV positive (could lead to 600 additional organ transplants a year)
HIV+ Cadaveric Donors to HIV+ Recipients

- Similar short and long term survival compared to HIV negative cohort
- No patients experienced an increased HIV viral load
- No transmission of cART resistance was detected
- CD4 counts decreased the first year < 200 but increased afterward
- Risk of rejection was 22%

HCV+ Donors for HCV- Recipients

• Recipients will all acquire HCV+ status
• Direct Acting Antivirals (DAA) started as soon as possible posttransplant

• Although graft survival is inferior to HCV- donors/HCV- recipients, the patient survival is still superior compared to remaining on dialysis therapy
• Currently being done under NIH protocols in selected centers
Will transplant centers consider this type of living donor as a possibility?

- Hep C donors – donors are aviremic and now should be considered for possible transplant if no signs of cirrhosis
- HIV Donors – still controversial

- Times are Changing!!!!!
HIV+ Living Donors to HIV+ Recipients

- **Risks**
  - HIV directly infects the kidneys and the donor may experience a higher risk of kidney injury over their lifetime with HIV infection
    - This risk would only be present in black race donors
  - Many cART agents are nephrotoxic: PI, NRTI
  - The effect of hyperfiltration on an HIV infected kidney in the donor is unknown
  - Black race and Hispanic HV+
  - APOL1 measurement in black race HIV+ donors is essential to estimate the risk of ESRD

HHS Launches President Trump’s ‘Advancing American Kidney Health’ Initiative 2019

We have set three particular goals for delivering on this vision, with tangible metrics to measure our success:

1. We need more efforts to prevent, detect, and slow the progression of kidney disease, in part by addressing upstream risk factors like diabetes and hypertension. We aim to reduce the number of Americans developing end-stage renal disease by 25 percent by 2030.

2. We need to provide patients who have kidney failure with more options for treatment, from both today’s technologies and future technologies such as artificial kidneys, and make it easier for patients to receive care at home or in other flexible ways. We aim to have 80 percent of new American ESRD patients in 2025 receiving dialysis in the home or receiving a transplant.

3. We need to deliver more organs for transplants, so we can help more Americans escape the burdens of dialysis altogether. We aim to double the number of kidneys available for transplant by 2030.
Cost Benefit of Kidney Transplantation

First Year Kidney Transplant: $124,000
Immunosuppressive costs after the first year: $33,000
Hemodialysis: $86,000

Transplantation becomes cost effective after 2.2 years.
The Kidney TP is Heterotopic (Not in the original position of the native organ) as compared to Liver and Heart TP which are Orthotopic.
The vascular supply of the kidney comes from the Iliac Artery.
Transplant Immunology

• Within each species there is a set of surface cell antigens that allows our immune system to distinguish self from non self

• These antigens are called the **Major Histocompatibility Antigens (MHC)** or the **Histocompatibility Leukocyte Antigens (HLA)**

• Coded for by **chromosome 6**
  • 3 distinct alleles (loci)
    • Physical regions where proteins are coded
  • Each designated by an alphabetical letter : A, B, D

• Co-dominant inheritance
HLA

• Transplantation is based on matching as many of the HLA antigens as possible

• Each person expresses 6 major HLA antigens
  • 2 in the A region
  • 2 in the B region
  • 2 in the D region

  } Over 80 different antigens exist

• Each person’s genetic identity is expressed by their 6 major HLA antigens
  • A 2,3   B 7,8   D 3,4

• The D region is the most important because it strongly influences lymphocyte reactivity
Example of HLA Distribution
All Nucleated Cells

The HLA on the surface of the cells can be recognized by the immune system (Lymphocytes) as either self or non self.
Transplantation Criteria

• Matching
  • It is possible but very difficult to cross blood groups
    • “O” can be used as a universal donor
  • Allocate kidneys based on the degree of HLA matching
    • Lower risk of rejection with higher levels of matching
  • Example:
    • Donor     A 2    A 4    B 7    B 8    DR 4    DR 8
    • Recipient 1 A 2    A 5    B2     B 8    DR 1    DR 3
    • Recipient 2 A 8    A 9    B7     B16    DR4    DR5

• Recipient 2 has a 2 antigen match including the most important match of a D region – so they are a better recipient for the donor kidney
First TP in the U.S. – Brigham, Ma 1954
Identical Twins

• “Get out of here and go home” – Note from Richard (Recipient) to Ronald (Donor) Herrick 12/23/54
• “I’m here and I’m going to stay and that’s it” – response from Ronald to Richard Herrick 12/23/54

No immunosuppression !!

Richard (recipient) married his post op nurse and they had 2 daughters
The kidney lasted 8 years and failed due to recurrent glomerulonephritis
Ronald (donor) lived a healthy life for 56 more years
“I’ve had one good kidney all these years and I’m still walking around so I guess it worked out all right.”
Transplant Rejection

- Acute T Cell Mediated
- Acute Humoral Mediated (B Cell)
- Hyperacute IgG antibody mediated

Only 10-15% of all transplants experience a rejection episode
TP Rejection- Cell Mediated

- Infiltration of the interstitium and tubules by cytotoxic T cells – **Tubulitis** (The hallmark of Rejection)

The patient may have fever with an enlarged, tender kidney

**Normal**

Intense T lymphocyte Invasion of the tubules
Antibody Mediated Acute Rejection

• In addition to acute T cell mediated rejection sometimes patients have a co-existent acute antibody directed attack on the kidney

• This occurs weeks to months after the transplant

• This is a very severe form of rejection often from noncompliance with medication

• Same physiologic concept as hyperacute rejection but less catastrophic and treatable as the antibodies develop slowly over time
Tacrolimus and Mycophenolate remain the most common agents used with glucocorticoids still being used in 70% of programs.

82% of centers use Induction Therapy.
Evolution of Kidney Transplant Rejection Rates over 25 years

- < 65 yrs old
- > 65 yrs old

% Rejection

- 1990-93
- 1994-97
- 1998-2001
- 2002-2005
- 2006-2009
- 2009-2012
Graft Loss after the First Year Posttransplant

**DWFG**

Death with a Functioning Graft
Cause of Death in Renal Transplant Recipients With Functioning Transplants

Total CVD: 45.7%

- Cerebrovascular disease: 21.0%
- Myocardial infarction: 7.4%
- Other cardiovascular: 13.0%
- Infection: 20.4%
- Malignancy: 25.3%
- Other: 13.0%


Caveat:
Cardiovascular Disease remains a significantly greater risk for renal transplant recipients compared to infection and malignancy.
Immunosuppressive Agents

- **Corticosteroids**
  - Prednisone
- **Calcineurin inhibitors**
  - Cyclosporine (Neoral)
  - Tacrolimus (Prograf)
- **Purine synthesis inhibitors**
  - Azathioprine (Imuran)
  - Mycophenolic acid (Cellcept / Myfortic)
- **mTOR Inhibitors** (mTOR = mammalian target of rapamycin)
  - Sirolimus / Everolimus
    - Trade names: Rapamycin / Zortress

Monotherapy or discontinuation of all therapy is not an option and will lead to rejection.
Immunosuppression

• **Calcineurin Inhibitors**
  - The single most important foundation of maintenance immunosuppression
  - Interleukin -2 is the most important cytokine used for T cells to recruit other cells to proliferate
  - The enzyme calcineurin is essential for the production of IL-2
  - **Calcineurin inhibitors prevent the production of IL-2 and inhibit the proliferation of T cells**
  - They do not affect the bone marrow
Immunosuppression

- Calcineurin Inhibitors
  - Side effects
    - HTN
    - Diabetes
    - Malignancy (Lymphoma)
    - AKI/CKD
  - Nephrotoxic over long periods of use
    - Causes interstitial fibrosis
  - One of the most serious challenges in TP medicine because these drugs are essential to prevent rejection
Immunosuppression

**Purine Inhibitors**

- The second most important part of the transplant regimen
  - Mycophenolic acid
  - Azathioprine
- Used to prevent cell replication
- Does not prevent the production of IL-2 but the cells cannot replicate due to impaired DNA production
  - All replicating cells will be affected
  - Marked bone marrow suppression
- Also associated with significant gastrointestinal inflammation / ulcers
Immunosuppression

- **Corticosteroids**
  - *Inhibit T cell cytokine production*
    - Interleukin -1
      - Responsible for inflammatory response
  - Reduce the number of T cells
- **Side effects**
  - HTN
  - Weight gain
  - Diabetes
  - Osteoporosis – inhibits Vitamin D activity
Immunosuppression

• mTOR inhibitors
  "Mammalian target of rapamycin" = mTOR
  • After Interleukin – 2 binds to its receptor there are intracellular signals that stimulate proliferation
    • mTOR is a key regulator of the cell’s response to IL-2
    • There is no decrease in T cell number

• Side Effects
  • Hyperlipidemia
  • Poor wound healing
  • No direct nephrotoxicity but may cause proteinuria

Often used instead of a purine inhibitor if the patient has severe bone marrow suppression
Immunosuppression

• **Belatacept**
  - a selective T-cell (lymphocyte) costimulation blocker. It binds to CD80 and CD86 on antigen-presenting cells, thereby blocking CD28 mediated costimulation of T lymphocytes

• **Side effects:**
  - Bone marrow suppression
  - Flu like symptoms
  - Nausea and vomiting
  - Malignancy – PTLD in particular if recipient is not EBV +

• **Goal:** It is often used in specific cases to avoid nephrotoxicity especially early on if patient has delayed graft function or later on to try to avoid further calcineurin inhibitor damage in hopes of prolonging the life of the allograft.
Calcineurin Inhibitors

Purine Inhibitors

mTOR Inhibitors

Steroids

Calcineurin

mTOR

DNA Replication

T cell

Stimulated T cell

T cell Proliferation

IL-2

IL-1

IL-1

IL-1

IL-1

Purine Inhibitors

mTOR Inhibitors

Calcineurin Inhibitors

Steroids

T cell

Stimulated T cell

T cell Proliferation
Transplant Complications

- **Infection**
  - **Viral**
    - Herpes group family
      - CMV (Cytomegalovirus)
      - EBV (Epstein Barr virus)
  - **Fungal**
    - Aspergillosis
    - Cryptococcus
    - TB
  - **Bacterial**

**Potentially fatal**
Fever / Pneumonia / Hepatitis / Colitis

All TP patients receive prophylactic pneumonia vaccination / lifelong antibiotics / anti-viral prophylaxis
Transplant Complications

- Malignancy
  - Skin cancer – most common
    - Squamous cell
      - Contrast to the general population where Basal cell cancer is the most common
  - Lymphoma
    - B cell origin !!!!
      - T cells are eliminated by the immunosuppression allowing B cells to propagate without inhibition
      - Primarily related to EBV
        - Directly infects B cells
  - Solid tumors like Breast/ Lung / Colon and Prostate cancer are slightly increased in risk
# Immunosuppression Summary

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<th>Diabetes</th>
<th>Bone marrow Suppression</th>
<th>Nephrotoxicity</th>
<th>Malignancy</th>
<th>Hyperlipidemia</th>
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All increase the risk of Infection!
Different Causes of Graft Failure

• Thrombosis leading to Primary Non-Functioning Kidney
• Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome leading to Necrosis
• Recurrence of Kidney Disease – less than 10% but recurrence with FSGS is more prevalent and graft failure ensues 50% of the time
• Rejection – rarely see accelerated rejection; mostly see ongoing chronic smoldering rejection that doesn’t respond to aggressive medical treatment
• Diabetic Nephropathy
• Viruses – Polyoma Virus (BK virus), Cytomegalovirus
• Life-threatening infections that may be donor derived
• PTLD – extremely rare
• Death with a Functioning Graft

• Chronic Allograft Injury – particularly from calcineurin inhibitor nephrotoxicity and/or Transplant Glomerulopathy
Which of these statements is correct?

A. The leading causes of death after kidney transplantation are infection followed by malignancy especially lymphoma

B. Due to the side effects of lifelong immunosuppression, transplant patients have improved survival as dialysis patients but have a better quality of life being free from regular dialysis treatments

C. Patients are officially listed for kidney transplantation once they begin dialysis therapy, either hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis

D. The average waiting time for a kidney transplant in the U.S. is currently approximately 1-2 years

E. All are correct

F. None are correct
Which of these drugs is nephrotoxic?

A. Mycophenolate Mofetil (Cellcept, Myfortic)
B. Calcineurin inhibitors (Prograf, Cyclosporin, Tacrolimus)
C. Azathioprine (Imuran)
D. Corticosteroids (Prednisone, Medrol)
E. mTOR inhibitors (Rapamycin, Sirolimus, Everolimus)
F. All are nephrotoxic
G. I have no idea what most of these drugs are !!
H. None are nephrotoxic
Kidney Transplantation Conclusions

- Transplantation can provide a significant improvement in patient survival compared to dialysis for all patients especially those with Diabetic patients
- The waiting time for a kidney transplant is unacceptable and is over 3-5 years
- Transplantation is cost effective compared to dialysis
- CVD is the most important cause of death after transplantation and patient death is the most common cause of graft loss
- The most serious consequence of current immunosuppression is the nephrotoxicity from calcineurin inhibitors
- Talk to your patients and family about being organ donors