Malignancy After Kidney Transplantation: Analysis of a 25-Year Single Center Experience

Introduction and Objectives: The occurrence of malignancies is a well-known serious complication after organ transplantation. We examined the incidence and clinical characteristics of de novo malignancies that occurred after renal transplantation over a 25-year period in a single center.

Materials and Methods: During this period, 240 renal transplantations (166 living related and 74 cadaveric) were followed at our department. Overall, 17 malignancies (7.1%) were observed in 15 patients (6.3%). The mean age of these patients was 48 years (range, 33-62 years).

Results: Five patients developed endometrial cancers. Gastric cancer, cervical cancer and skin cancer were found in 2 patients. We also detected 1 each of sigmoid colon cancer, maxillary cancer, malignant lymphoma, rectal carcinoid, and renal cell carcinoma. All cancers were de novo malignancies that presented at a mean time of 90 months (range, 1-252 months) after surgery. Two of the 15 patients with malignancies died of cancer.

Conclusions: The incidence of malignancies for our center was similar to that reported elsewhere. Careful clinical examination and long-term screening protocols are needed for early detection and treatment of this life-threatening complication among the transplant population.