

Epstein-Barr Virus Surveillance in Lung Transplantation: Post-transplant Lymphoproliferative Disorder and Impact on Survival



Kim A, BS¹, Goldberg HJ, MD², Thaniyavarn T, MD², Kennedy JC, MD², Coppolino A, MD³, Mallidi HR, MD³, Lee SF, MD², Joyce MR, MS¹, Kovac V, MD¹, Issa NC, MD¹, Harris, CE, MD¹, LaCasce AS, MD⁴, Sharma NS, MD², Baden LR, MD¹, Woolley AE, MD¹

¹Division of Infectious Diseases, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA, ²Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA, ³Division of Thoracic Surgery, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA, ⁴Department of Medical Oncology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA

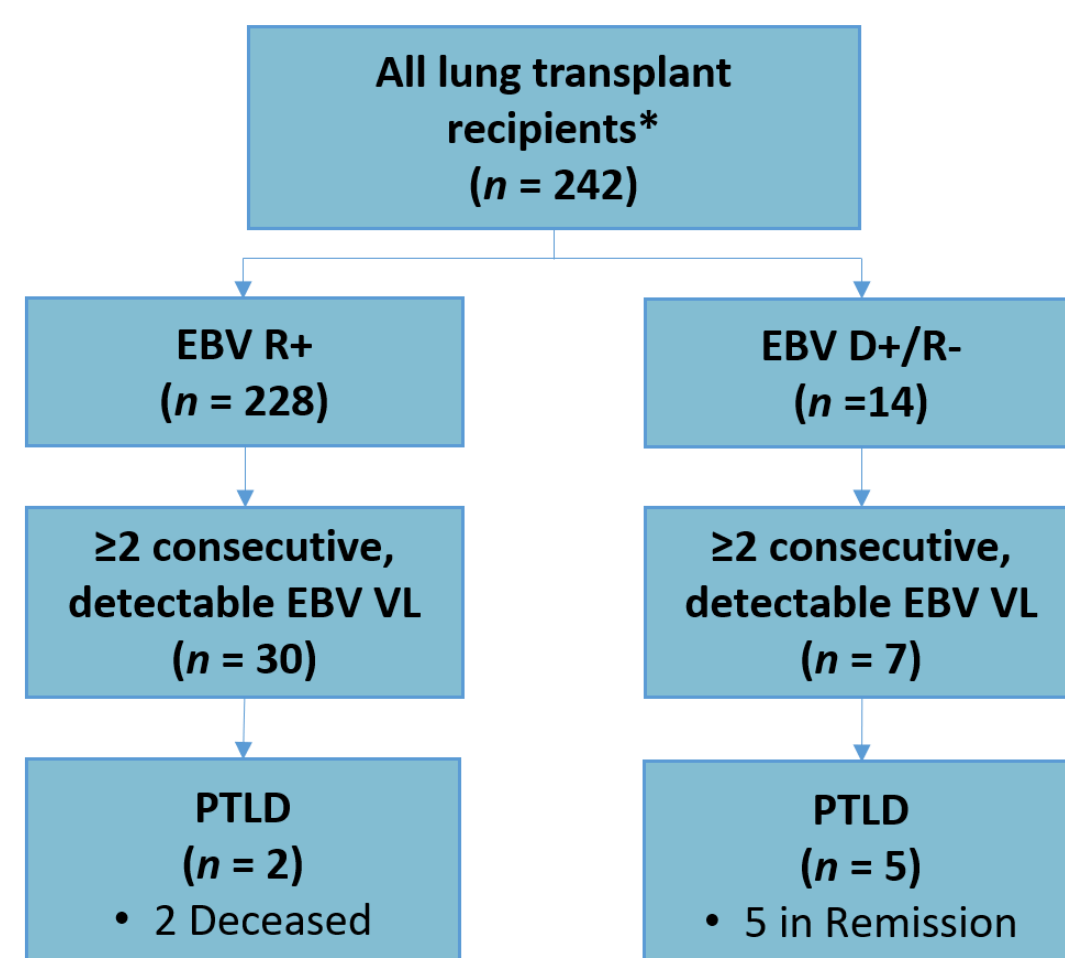
BACKGROUND

- EBV donor seropositive/recipient seronegative (D+/R-) status is a risk factor for PTLD
- The optimal surveillance strategy for PTLD post-lung transplant stratified by EBV serostatus for early diagnosis is unknown
- We assessed serial EBV viral loads (VL) for early diagnosis of PTLD and compared outcomes in EBV D+/R- and R+ lung transplant recipients

METHODS

- A single-center retrospective study of lung transplant recipients between Jan 2017 and Sept 2021, with a 6-month minimum follow-up
- Recipient characteristics, serial EBV VL (biweekly months 1-3, monthly 4-12; using the cobas quantitative PCR assay on serum), and clinical outcomes including PTLD, rejection, and all-cause mortality were assessed

STUDY COHORT



*7 recipients were excluded due to having died less than 1-month post-transplant and thus not having sufficient EBV VL testing.

BASELINE CHARACTERISTICS

| Characteristic | EBV D+/R- (n = 14) | EBV R+ (n = 228) | P-value* |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Median age, years [IQR] | 61 [40, 66] | 62 [55, 67] | 0.428 |
| Male, n (%) | 9 (64) | 129 (57) | 0.782 |
| White non-Hispanic, n (%) | 13 (93) | 194 (85) | 0.699 |
| Median lung allocation score [IQR] | 41 [35, 73] | 38 [34, 49] | 0.312 |
| Underlying disease, n (%) | | | |
| Restrictive lung disease | 6 (43) | 145 (64) | 0.155 |
| Obstructive lung disease | 4 (29) | 57 (25) | 0.755 |
| Cystic fibrosis | 3 (21) | 16 (7) | 0.086 |
| Pulmonary vascular disease | 1 (7) | 10 (4) | 0.488 |
| Bilateral transplant, n (%) | 14 (100) | 216 (95) | 1.000 |
| Cytomegalovirus D+/R- status, n (%) | 3 (21) | 82 (35) | 0.390 |
| Mean donor ischemic time, minutes (SD) | 360 (119) | 298 (90) | 0.014 |
| Mean cardiopulmonary bypass time, minutes (SD) | 222 (49) | 191 (58) | 0.019 |
| Pulmonary graft dysfunction, grade 3 at 72 hours, n (%) | 2 (14) | 17 (9) | 0.628 |
| Median length of stay, days [IQR] | 21 [15, 30] | 17 [12, 25] | 0.234 |

CLINICAL OUTCOMES

| Outcome | EBV D+/R- (n = 14) | EBV R+ (n = 228) | P-value* |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Chronic kidney disease stage 4 or 5 at 6 months, n (%) | 2 (14) | 39 (18) | 1.000 |
| Respiratory failure at 6 months, n (%) | 0 (0) | 26 (12) | 0.379 |
| Post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorder, n (%) | 5 (36) | 2 (1) | <0.001 |
| Median weeks to PTLD diagnosis [IQR] | 22 [17, 31] | 17 [16, 17] | 0.331 |
| ≥2 consecutive, detectable EBV VL, n (%) | 7 (50) | 30 (13) | 0.001 |
| Median weeks post-transplant** [IQR] | 14 [7, 15] | 10 [6, 24] | 0.106 |
| PTLD, n (%) | 5/7 (71) | 2/30 (7) | 0.001 |
| Median EBV VL, IU/mL [IQR] | 255 [128,656] | 739 [204,1239] | 0.572 |
| Rejection requiring treatment at 1 year, n (%) | | | |
| Acute cellular rejection | 1/13 (7) | 72/210 (34) | 0.040 |
| Antibody mediated rejection | 1/13 (7) | 16/210 (8) | 1.000 |
| Survival, n (%) | | | |
| 6 months | 14/14 (100) | 213/228 (93) | 1.000 |
| 1 year | 13/13 (100) | 188/205 (92) | 0.608 |
| 2 years | 12/13 (92) | 140/163 (86) | 1.000 |

*P-values are based on Fisher's two-sided exact test (for categorical variables) or the Wilcoxon rank-sum test (for continuous variables). **Time to ≥2 consecutive, detectable EBV VL was calculated based on the date of the second consecutive, detectable VL.

RESULTS

SURVEILLANCE

- 7 (50%) EBV D+/R- recipients had 2 consecutive, detectable EBV VL in the 1st year post-transplant vs. 30 (13%) R+ recipients (p=0.002)
 - Median weeks to 2 consecutive, detectable VL were 14 (IQR 7, 15) for D+/R- and 10 (IQR 6, 24) for R+
- 5 (71%) D+/R- recipients with 2 consecutive, detectable VL developed PTLD vs. 2 (7%) R+ recipients (p=0.001)
 - Median weeks to diagnosis of PTLD were 22 (IQR 17, 31) for D+/R- and 17 (IQR 16, 17) for R+
- Only recipients with 2 consecutive, detectable VL developed PTLD
- EBV VL level was not associated with development of PTLD

OUTCOMES

- 6-month outcomes were similar between D+/R- and R+
- There were no differences in mortality at 1 and 2-years stratified by serostatus
- All 5 D+/R- with PTLD were alive 2 years post-transplant, whereas both R+ PTLD recipients died <2 years post-transplant (p=0.048)

DISCUSSION

- Two consecutive, detectable EBV VL within the first-year post-lung transplant should prompt additional work-up for the early diagnosis of PTLD in all recipients regardless of the EBV VL level or serostatus
- Though the attack rate of PTLD was greater in EBV D+/R- recipients, survival outcomes were similar irrespective of serostatus

Andy Kim
Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA
jkim1@bwh.harvard.edu
(617) 899-5380