Agenda

• What is this call about?
• Today’s speakers:
  - Richard Perez, MD
    Chief, Division of Transplant Surgery
    University of California Davis (UC Davis)
  - Topic: Making Kidney Transplantation Possible During the COVID-19 Pandemic
• Questions and answers (Q&As) from chat and Q&A panels
What Is This Call About?

• Hear from stakeholders and peers in the ESRD community who are adapting to COVID-19.
• Share examples and provide real-world strategies for transplant centers to use.
• Engage in ongoing calls on varying COVID-19-related topics.
Making Kidney Transplantation Possible During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Richard Perez, MD
Chief, Division of Transplant Surgery
UC Davis
July 22, 2020
Decision Making Process During COVID-19 Pandemic

• Regular leadership and faculty meetings to discuss issues
• Regular monitoring of online updates on changing practice patterns regionally and nationally
• Frequent Transplant Center staff updates (Weekly Webex meetings during pandemic peak)
• Factors governing transplantation practice
  • Community/Regional COVID-19 infection rate/trends
  • Hospital census and resources
  • Ability to provide patient care as safely as possible
  • Health care provider safety
### UC Davis Renal Transplantation During COVID-19 Pandemic

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Living Donor</th>
<th>Deceased Donor</th>
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<td>January</td>
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- **March 17th**
  - LD program on hold
  - DD program restrictions
  - Pre-transplant donor and recipient COVID-19 testing
  - Outpatient clinic restrictions

- **April 8th**
  - Immunosuppression modification

- **The “New Normal” during COVID-19 pandemic**
  - Improved COVID-19 testing
  - DD program restrictions lifted
  - LD program restarted

**Legend**
- LD = living donor
- DD = deceased donor
UC Davis Transplant Center: Initial Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

• LD transplants put on hold
• DD transplant program modifications:
  • Avoid high medical-risk recipients (age >70, underlying respiratory disease)
  • Avoid recipients from COVID-19 “hot-spot” areas
  • Avoid high-risk donors
  • Pre-op in-house COVID-19 testing on admission of deceased donor transplant recipients
• Restriction of outpatient clinics to most urgent patients (fresh transplants)
• Increase utilization of online sessions for all disciplines
• Social distancing measures initiated for clinic patients who needed to be seen in person
• Development of UC Davis Transplant website for patient questions/resources
UC Davis Transplant Center:
Additional Inpatient Program Modifications during the Pandemic

• Clinical inpatient practice
  • Need for early admission of recipients pre-op to obtain nasopharyngeal swab for COVID-19 testing
  • Increased utilization of hypothermic machine perfusion for kidneys subjected to longer cold ischemia times while waiting for COVID-19 testing results
  • Expect slower recovery of kidney function with more DGF and possible increase in hospital length of stays.

• Change in induction immunosuppression protocol
  • Decrease thymoglobulin dose by 50%
  • Initiation of short (30 day) steroid taper
  • Change from slow release to immediate release tacrolimus for closer monitoring of levels during early post-transplant period

DGF = delayed graft function
UC Davis Transplant Center: The Current “New Normal” during the COVID-19 Pandemic

• DD transplant program modifications
  • No current restriction of recipients from COVID-19 “hot-spot” areas
  • No age restrictions for recipients
  • Continued avoidance of very high-risk donors
  • Continue pre-op COVID-19 testing in-house

• Immunosuppression protocol
  • Full-dose thymoglobulin protocol for standard and high immunologic-risk recipients
  • Steroid free maintenance immunosuppression
  • Continue immediate release tacrolimus for fresh transplant patients

• Living donor transplants restarted
  • Caution with living donors from hot spots
  • Donors tested for COVID-19 at pre-op clinic visit and within 48 hours of donation

• All patients maintain strict personal hygiene and social distancing
Let Us Hear From You

Q&As from chat and Q&A panels
TheKidneyHub.org

• Secure, mobile-friendly web tool for patients and professionals.

• Developed by the ESRD NCC with assistance from patient Subject Matter Experts (SMEs).

• Links to important resources, such as:
  ▪ COVID-19, infection prevention, transplant, home dialysis, and new ESRD patient education.
  ▪ New features include access to the Patient Grant Library, an informative Understanding High-Kidney Donor Profile Index (KDPI) and Increased Risk Kidneys video, and more.

• Visit today and bookmark to your device’s home screen.
Our Next COVID-19 Quickinar Events

• Save the dates for our next events.
  ▪ Patient-focused event:
    July 28, 2020, at 5 p.m. ET
  ▪ Provider-focused event:
    July 29, 2020, at 5 p.m. ET

• Visit [www.kidneyCOVIDinfocenter.com](http://www.kidneyCOVIDinfocenter.com) for information and to register.
Thank You!

NCCinfo@hsag.com
844.472.4250
813.865.3545
www.esrdncc.org

Additional COVID-19 resources for patients and providers:

www.kidneyCOVIDinfocenter.com