

COMMERCIAL CADAVERIC RENAL TRANSPLANT - AN ETHICAL RATHER THAN MEDICAL ISSUE

Chiao-Yin Sun, Chin-Chan Lee, Chiz-Tzung Chang, Cheng-Chih Hung, Mai-Szu Wu*

Department of Nephrology, Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Keelung, Taiwan

BACKGROUND/AIMS: Donor organ shortage is a universal problem. The organ source has been extended to controversial death-penalty outlaws in certain countries. It was claimed that commercial transplant had a worse short-term clinical outcome. The aim of this study is to investigate long-term outcome of patients receiving commercial cadaveric renal transplant.

METHODS: Seventy-five renal transplant recipients receiving long-term follow-up were included. Thirty-one patients received overseas commercial cadaveric transplants. Forty-four patients had legal domestic transplants in Taiwan.

RESULTS: The age of the patients receiving the commercial cadaveric transplant was significantly older than those with legal domestic transplant (Commercial vs Legal: 46.1 ± 11.4 Vs 35.6 ± 9.0 year-old; $p < 0.001$). The renal function estimated by creatinine and $1/\text{creatinine}$ up to 8 years was not significantly different between the two groups. The graft survivals of the two groups were not different. The mortality rate between the two groups was comparable at 10 years (91.1% in domestic and 88.9% in overseas). There was no significant difference in de novo viral hepatitis, cytomegalovirus infection, and acute rejection.

DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS: Clinical outcomes of overseas commercial cadaveric transplants were not different from that of domestic legal transplants. To stop the unethical procedure, ethnicity and humanity are the major concerns.

Key words: renal transplantation, commercial cadaveric transplant, ethnicity