Perception, Knowledge and Attitude of Hemodialysis Patients Towards Kidney Transplantation: A Cross Sectional Study

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Abstract

Background

There is increasing number of dialysis patients with only 20% undergoing kidney transplantation (KT) due to several factors. In Saudi Arabia, no studies were conducted to examine barriers related to patients' knowledge and attitude toward KT. We aimed in this study to assess knowledge and attitude of chronic hemodialysis (HD) patients towards KT, estimate the proportion of patients who are willing to undergo KT and explore underlying determinants of their willingness.

Methods

An observational cross-sectional study involved all adult patients attending outpatient HD units at King Abdulaziz Medical City and King Abdullah Dialysis Center-Jeddah. Patients were consented and interviewed through a validated questionnaire by medical resident. Calculated sample size was 243.

Results

Among the 252 HD patients (mean age 55 [SD=15.21] years, 59% men and median duration on HD 24 [IQR 49] months), 61% described their own knowledge about KT as poor or very poor. Only 69% choose willingness to undergo KT, proportion of 0.69 (95% CI 0.64, 0.75). The main reasons reported by those not willing to undergo KT were being old for transplantation (61%) and fear of surgical complications (26%). Less KT willingness was shown with age >60 years (adjusted OR 0.2; 95% CI 0.11 to 0.36; P value <0.001), duration on hemodialysis >5 years (adjusted OR 0.5; 95% CI 0.26 to 0.95; P value 0.036) and being non-married (adjusted OR 0.47; 95% CI 0.24 to 0.92; P value 0.028).

Conclusion

Approximately one third do not choose willingness to undergo KT. Willingness was negatively associated with older age, lack of spouse, and longer duration on hemodialysis. Majority of hemodialysis patients report poor knowledge about kidney transplantation. Therefore, structured education may optimize the knowledge, perception and attitude of hemodialysis patients toward KT and hence improve their transplantation willingness.

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