Renal transplantation for patients from ethnic minorities

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On behalf of the UK Transplant Kidney and Pancreas Advisory Group

Results (1)

Compared with the normal UK population (8% ethnic minorities), ethnic minority patients are under-represented among donors (2%) and over-represented among patients awaiting transplant (21%).

Investigation of patients awaiting transplant showed significant ethnic differences according to blood group, patient “matchability” and geographical area (p<0.0001).

Results (2)

Analysis of three-year transplant survival for first cadaveric heartbeating donor kidney transplants in adults (1998-2003) showed no difference between White and Asian patients but some evidence of inferior survival in Black patients (p<0.06). This effect was also apparent after risk-adjustment for recipient and donor age and HLA match (p=0.03).

Summary

The study showed that ethnic minority groups are under-represented among donors and that potential recipients from minority groups wait longer for transplant. Once transplanted, ethnic minority patients were found to have inferior HLA matchgrades. There are major initiatives to increase organ donation in ethnic minority groups. In addition, the national Kidney Allocation Scheme is under review and any proposed new scheme will seek to increase the availability of cadaveric kidneys for patients from the ethnic minorities.