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CONTENTS

Foreword ............................................................ H. Brynger 3531

RECENT ADVANCES IN ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION

Distant Procurement and Preservation of Heart-Lung Homografts .......... M. Hakim, T. Higenbottam, T.A.H. English, and J. Wallwork 3535

Frequency of Acute Heart and Lung Rejection After Heart-Lung Transplantation T. Wahlers, A. Khaghani, M. Martin, N. Banner, and M. Yacoub 3537


Protective Effect of Lipo-Prostaglandin E1 on Post-Ischemic Renal Failure I. Koyama, K. Neya, K. Ueda, and R. Omoto 3542


Indication, Technique, and Results of Liver Graft Volume Reduction Before Orthotopic Transplantation in Children ................. B. de Hemptinne, M. Salizzoni, T.C. Yandza, J. de Ville de Goyet, K.C. Tan, P.J. Kestens, and J.B. Otte 3549


The Influence of Combined Pancreatic and Renal Transplantation on Advanced Diabetic Retinopathy ............... M. Ulbig, A. Kampik, R. Landgraf, and W. Land 3554

(Continued)
CONTENTS

(continued)

HLA Matching Analysis of Cyclosporine-Treated Cadaver Kidneys Transplanted in 1986 ...................................................................................................................... G. Opelz 3557

The Influence of HLA Matching in Cardiac Allograft Recipients in a Single Center
C. Raffoux, V. Mayor, C. Cabrol, M. Busson, J. Hors, and J. Colombani 3559

Expression of Donor and Recipient Class I and Class II Major Histocompatibility
Complex Antigens in Human Liver Grafts.........................G. Steinhoff, K. Wonigeit,
J. Harpprecht, J.P. Johnson, and R. Pichlmayr 3561

Antirejection Treatment in Kidney Transplantation—Is There a Proved Rationale for
the General Use of Monoclonal Antibodies? ........H.J. Reis, U.T. Hopt, B. Greger,
W.D. Schareck, and H. Bockhorn 3565

Rapid Immunodiagnosis of Kidney Rejection by Using Activation Markers on Kidney
Tubular Cells and Infiltrating T Subset Cells .............. T.H. Tötterman, E. Hanås,
E. Larsson, P.G. Lindgren, O. Sjöberg, J. Wahlberg, and G. Tufveson 3570

Comparison of Segmental Pancreatic Transplantation With Duct Obstruction and
Pancreaticoduodenal Transplantation With Enteric Diversion .....J.M. Dubernard,
R. Sanseverino, M. Melandri, J.L. Faure, L. Camozzi, E. La Rocca,
N. LeFrancois, J. Finaz, X. Martin, and J.L. Touraine 3572

The Metabolic Efficiency and Long-Term Fate of Intraportal Islet Grafts in the
Cynomolgus Monkey..............R. Sutton, D.W.R. Gray, P. McShane, M. Peters,
and P.J. Morris 3575

CLINICAL TRANSPLANTATION
AND EXPERIMENTAL PARAMETERS

Kidney

Renal Transplantation From HLA-Haploidentical Living Donors. Efficacy of
Cyclosporine in a Multicenter Study .........................D. Albrechtsen, A. Flatmark,
G. Lundgren, H. Brynger, L. Frödin, C. Groth, H. Gäbel, and E. Thorsby 3579

Triple Therapy Including Cyclosporine A Versus Conventional Regimen—A
Randomized Prospective Study in Pediatric Kidney Transplantation.... M. Broyer,
M.F. Gagnadoux, G. Guest, and P. Niaudet 3582

Improved Renal Graft Function in Triple-Drug Treatment with Low-Dose
Cyclosporine .....................H. Persson, C. Andersson, C. Lundgren, D. Albrechtsen,
H. Gäbel, L. Frödin, I. Fehrman, A. Flatmark, and H. Brynger 3586

Comparison of Antithymocyte Globulin Antirejection Treatment in Renal Transplant
Patients With Either Cyclosporine or Azathioprine as Basic Immunosuppression

(Continued)
CONTENTS
(continued)

Morphological Findings in Kidney Transplants Before and After Late Conversion
From Cyclosporine A to Azathioprine..................... D.J. Versluis, F.J.W. ten Kate, G.J. Wenting, J. Jeekel, and W. Weimar 3592

Conversion of Immunosuppression in Renal Allograft Recipients from Cyclosporine A to Azathioprine and Prednisolone 6 Months After Transplantation


Treatment of Renal Artery Stenosis After Renal Transplantation.............. G. Benoît, C. Hiesse, P. Icard, H. Bensadoun, J. Bellamy, B. Charpentier, A. Jardin, and D. Fries 3600

Beneficial Effects of Calcium Antagonist Pretreatment and Albumin Infusion on Cyclosporine A–Induced Impairment of Kidney Microcirculation in Mice
P. Rooth, I. Dawidson, K. Diller, and I-B. Täljedal 3602


Role of HLA Matching and Pretransplant Blood Transfusions in Cyclosporine-Treated Recipients of Cadaveric Renal Allografts: 2- to 3-Year Results.............. G. Lundgren, D. Albrechtsen, H. Brynger, A. Flatmark, L. Frödin, H. Gäbel, A. Lindholm, W. Maurer, E. Möller, H. Persson, and C.G. Groth 3614

Retransplantation of Renal Grafts: Prognostic Influence of Previous Transplantation
D. Albrechtsen, A. Flatmark, G. Lundgren, H. Brynger, L. Frödin, C.G. Groth, and H. Gäbel 3619

Causes and Consequences of Previous Allosensitization in Recipients of Cadaveric Renal Grafts..................... D. Albrechtsen, A. Flatmark, G. Lundgren, H. Brynger, L. Frödin, C.G. Groth, and H. Gäbel 3622

Tissue Distribution of Macrophages, Class II Transplantation Antigens, and Receptors for Platelet-Derived Growth Factor in Normal and Rejected Human Kidneys

HLA Class II Induction and Cellular Infiltration are Effectively Suppressed by Triple Therapy in Renal Allografts ............. D.L. McWhinnie, S.V. Fuggle, L.S. Azevedo, R.M. Jones, and P.J. Morris 3628

(Continued)
CONTENTS
(continued)

Differentiation of Cyclosporine A–Induced Nephrotoxicity From Acute Rejection in Renal Transplantation Using Fine-Needle Aspiration Biopsies ............. A. Zannier, M. Mutin, J.L. Touraine, and J. Traeger 3630

Thromboxane and Inflammatory Cell Infiltration of the Allograft of Renal Transplant Patients...M.L. Foegh, K-L. Lim, M.R. Aljani, G.B. Helfrich, and P.W. Ramwell 3633

Correlation Between the Allogeneic Proliferative Response and the Outcome of Renal Transplantation .......... C. Pouteil-Noble, H. Betuel, A.C. Freidel, J.M. Dubernard, and J.L. Touraine 3637

Predicting Waiting Time for a Beneficially Matched Graft ......................... W.R. Gilks, B.A. Bradley, and S.M. Gore 3640

Renal Transplantation in South America .................... L. Martinez and J. Pereyra 3642

Follow-up of Donors in Living Related Renal Transplantation...................... J. Drinovec, M. Malovrh, A. Kandus, B. Čičman, S. Luzar, M. Košak, L. Ravnik, R. Kveder, R. Ponikvar, M. Močivnik, M. Benedik, J. Varl, S. Kaplan-Pavlovič 3645


The Impact of Repeated DR Mismatching and Preformed Antibodies on Human Kidney Retransplantation .......... A. Yussim, T. Efter, D. Shmueli, and Z. Shapira 3653


Cyclosporine in Living Related Renal Transplantation—Single Unit Experience A. Al-Khader, R. Chang, M. Jawdat, M. Abomelha, K. Etaibi, M.K. Al-Hasani, and M. Kourah 3669


(Continued)
CONTENTS
(continued)

Triple Drug Immunosuppression (Cyclosporine, Azathioprine and Low-Dose Prednisolone): A Safe and Effective Regimen in First-Cadaver Kidney Transplantation... G. Mourad, C. Legendre, A. Argiles, A. Bonardet, and C. Mion 3672

Low-Dose Cyclosporine, ALG, and Steroids in First Cadaveric Renal Transplants
J.M. Griño, A.M. Castelao, I. Sabate, M. Mestre, S. Gil-Vernet, E. Andres, R. Sabater, and J. Alsina 3674

Low-Dose Triple Immunosuppression in Pediatric Cadaveric Renal Transplantation
D.M.A. Francis, R.G. Walker, and A.J.F. d'Apice 3677

Improved Results of Pediatric Renal Transplantation........ O.R. Oberkircher, J.C. West, P. Campbell, and S.E. Kelley 3679

Low-Dose Cyclosporine Monotherapy in Renal Transplantation........... P.J.A. Griffin, W.B. Ross, J.D. Williams, and J.R. Salaman 3685

The Influence of Preexisting Clinical Vascular Disease on Patient and Graft Outcome in Diabetic and Nondiabetic Recipients of Primary Cadaver Kidney Transplants
K.V. Rao and M. Odlund 3687


Vascular Complications in 1200 Kidney Transplantations.... C. Höhnke, D. Abendroth, S. Schleibner, and W. Land 3691

Transplantation in Jehovah’s Witnesses....................... D.B. Kaufman, D.E.R. Sutherland, R.L. Simmons, N.A. Ascher, and J.S. Najarian 3693

Nodular Regenerative Hyperplasia of the Liver in Renal Transplantation

Peliosis Hepatis and Nodular Regenerative Hyperplasia of the Liver in Renal Transplants. Is Cytomegalovirus the Cause of This Severe Disease?
G. Mourad, P. Bories, C. Berthelemy, G. Barneon, H. Michel, and C. Mion 3697

Hepatic Sinusoidal Dilatation With Portal Hypertension During Azathioprine Treatment: A Cause of Chronic Liver Disease After Kidney Transplantation
P.G.G. Gerlag and J.P. van Hooff 3699


(Continued)
CONTENTS
(continued)


Calcium, Hyperparathyroidism, and Vitamin D Metabolism After Kidney Transplantation ... A.M. de Francisco, J.A. Riancho, J.A. Amado, C. del Arco, J.G. Macias, J.G. Cotorruelo, and M. Arias 3721


Temporal Patterns of C-Reactive Protein and Other Acute Phase Proteins After Kidney Transplantation ................. P. Bruzzone, G. Sganga, M. Castagneto, G. Nanni, and G.C. Castiglioni 3727

Influence of Type of Immunosuppressive Therapy on Gastrin, Insulin, Glucagon, and Pancreatic Polypeptide Secretion in Kidney Transplant Patients E. Zukowska-Szczechowska, W. Grzeszczak, F. Kokot, T. Nieszporek, S. Kusmierski, and A. Szkodny 3731


The Highly Immunized Patient

Kidney Transplantation in Sensitized Patients ......................... G. Opelz 3737

Council of Europe Study of High Sensitization in Renal Transplantation B.A. Bradley and S.M. Gore 3742

Graft Survival in Highly Sensitized Patients ....................... P.T. Klouda, T.C. Ray, J. Kirkpatrick, and B.A. Bradley 3744

Can the Profile of Preformed HLA Antibodies in Highly Sensitized Recipients Influence the Outcome of Their Kidney Transplants? .......... M. Busson, A.M. Bouteiller, P. Prevost, C. Raffoux, H. Betuel, R. Fauchet, J.D. Bignon, F. Guigner, M. Calot, P. Mercier, and J. Hors 3746

Plasma Exchange and Immunosuppressive Therapy Before Renal Transplantation in Allosensitized Patients ..................... P. Fauchald, T. Leivestad, A. Bratlie, D. Albrechtsen, T. Talseth, and A. Flatmark 3748

(Continued)


The Long-Term Renal Allograft Recipient

Long-Term Results of Renal Transplantation in Europe........ W. Fassbinder, S. Challah, and H. Brynger 3754
Renal Transplantation: Complications and Results in the Second Decade .......... K.V. Rao 3758
Late Mortality and Morbidity at 5 to 18 Years After Kidney Transplantation
C. Toussaint, P. Kinnaert, and P. Vereerstraeten 3760
Long-Term Prognosis After Cadaveric Kidney Transplantation
Y. Vanrenterghem, L. Roels, T. Lerut, M. Waer, J. Gruwez, and P. Michielsen 3762
Long-Term Results in Kidney Transplantation: Patient and Graft Survival, Causes of Graft Failure and Mortality, Renal Function and Complications After 10 Years
Study of 172 Patients at 10 to 21 Years After Renal Transplantation................. B. Frisk, H. Persson, N. Wedel, C. Andersson, A-C. Wijnveen, I. Blohmé, I. Karlberg, L. Hedman, and H. Brynger 3769

Heart and Lung Transplantation

The Diagnosis of Lung Rejection and Opportunistic Infection by Transbronchial Lung Biopsy ......................... T. Higenbottam, S. Stewart, A. Penketh, and J. Wallwork 3777
Diagnosis of Rejection in Rat Lung Allografts by Bronchoalveolar Lavage........ J. Prop, J.P.A. Wagenaar-Hilbers, A.H. Petersen, and C.R.H. Wildevuur 3779

(Continued)


Extracorporeal Circulation With Membrane Oxygenation as a Bridge to Transplantation in Cardiac Surgical Patients. D. Loisance, M.L. Hillion, P. Deleuze, O. Tavolaro, Y. Heurtematte, A. Castaigne, and J-P. Cachera 3786

Ultrastructural Evidence of Cardiodilatin in Rat Transplanted Heart. P. Cuevas, A. Golitsin, A.M. Gonzalez, and W.G. Forssmann 3789


Heart Transplantation in Children: Initial Experience at University of Rome. M. Toscano, G. Mazzesi, B. Marino, G. Alfani, M. Rossi, R. Cortesini, and V. Colloridi 3795

Liver Transplantation


Use of Flexible Triple-Drug Immunosuppressive Therapy in Liver Transplantation. J. Gugenheim, D. Samuel, F. Saliba, D. Castaing, and H. Bismuth 3805

Aspiration Cytology in the Diagnosis of Rejection After Orthotopic Liver Transplantation. R.M. Kirby, J.A. Young, S.G. Hübscher, W.B. Cuthbertson, and P. McMaster 3808


Selective Increase of CD8\(^+\) CD11\(^+\) Cells in Long-Term Liver Allograft Recipients. R. Schwinzer, K. Wonigeit, B. Nashan, and R. Pichlmayr 3812


Minimizing Total Ischemia Time in Rat Organ Transplantation Using a Mixed Cuff Microsurgical Technique. A. Marni, M.E. Ferrero, D. Forti, and G.F. Gaja 3859

Experience With Human Liver Grafts Obtained After Donor Cardiac Standstill. B.G. Ericzon, G. Lundgren, H. Wilczek, and C.G. Groth 3862

Cost-Effectiveness of Liver Transplantation. J. Kankaanpää 3864

Pancreas Transplantation


Recent Improvement in Clinical Pancreas Transplantation. W.D. Illner, S. Schleibner, D. Abendroth, R. Landgraf, and W. Land 3870


Pancreatic Transplant Revascularization by Dual Arterial Anastomoses. I.B. Brekke and J. Norstein 3874


Successful Preservation of Human Pancreas Grafts for 28 Hours. G. Florack, D.E.R. Sutherland, J. Heise, and J.S. Najarian 3882


(Continued)
CONTENTS

(continued)

Pancreatic Antibodies as a Marker for Pancreatic Graft Rejection
M. Landin-Olsson, G. Sundkvist, Å. Lernmark, H. Weibull, R. Takolander,
D. Bergqvist, K. Fält, and H. Gäbel 3890

Diagnosis of Rejection in Recipients of Pancreatic Grafts With Enteric Exocrine
Diversion by Monitoring Pancreatic Juice Cytology and Amylase Excretion
G. Tydén, F. Reinholt, C. Brattström, G. Lundgren, H. Wilczek, J. Bolinder,
J. Östman, and C.G. Groth 3892

Advantages and Disadvantages of Urinary Tract Diversion in Clinical Pancreas
Transplantation.... L. Fernández-Cruz, E. Esmatges, J. Andreu, E.M. Targarona,
M. Prieto, and J.M. Gil-Vernet 3895

Urine Amylase and Insulin Reserve Capacity Are Valuable Tools for Diagnosing
Pancreas Allograft Rejection ...... J.P. van Hooff, K.M.L. Leunissen, P.J. Kingma,
A.C. Nieuwenhuyzen Kruseman, C.P. Degenaar, P.P.C.A. Menheere,
E.K.M. Beukers, and G. Kootstra 3899

Phosphorus Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy Studies in the Acute Rejection
of Rat Pancreatic Allografts...................... G.E. Morris, S.R. Williams, E. Proctor,
D.G. Gadian, and N.L. Browse 3903

Monitoring of Urinary Amylase and pH After Pancreas Transplantation in Rats
T. Zheng, T. Schang, and D.E.R. Sutherland 3906

Delayed Duct Occlusion—A New Technique of Pancreas Transplantation
A. Aigner, A. Königsrainer, E. Steiner, T. Schmid, W. Aulitzky, G. Klima,
and R. Margreiter 3908

Combined Kidney/Pancreas Transplantation—Poor Long-Term Outcome of Renal
Grafts........... G. Hillebrand, L.A. Castro, R. Landgraf, S. Schleibner, W-D. Illner,
D. Abendroth, and W. Land 3909

Severe Kidney Graft Rejection in Combined Kidney and Pancreas Transplantation
L. Hedman, B. Frisk, H. Brynger, L. Frödin, G. Tufveson, and J. Wahlberg 3911

EXPERIMENTAL
TRANSPLANTATION

Functional Significance of Portal Venous Drainage in Pancreas Transplantation
R. Lück, J. Klempnauer, B. Steiniger, G. Ehlerding, K. Kühn, and R. Pichlmayr 3915

Metabolic Comparison Between Canine Islet Autografts With Portal and Peripheral
Venous Drainage ............... A.J. Guy, S.M. Griffin, D. Alderson, and J.R. Farndon 3918

Pancreas Transplantation: A Study of Insulin Secretion in Isolated Islets of
Langerhans and in Sera Using a New Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay
J. Kekow, K. Ulrichs, W. Müller-Ruchholtz, and W.L. Gross 3921

(Continued)
Survival of Pancreas Allografts in Rats Treated With Cyclosporine and Bromocriptine

M.E. Ferrero, A. Marni, G. Corbetta, and G. Gaja

Recent Developments in Experimental Hepatocyte Transplantation

J.P.A.M. Vroemen, W.A. Buurman, C.J. van der Linden, K.P.M. Heirwegh, B. Schutte, J. Coenegracht, R. Visser, and G. Kootstra

Intrasplenic Hepatocellular Transplantation as a Hepatic Support Measure in Cirrhotic Dogs: Preliminary Results.........J. Martin, V. Cuervas-Mons, A. Colás, M. Diz, and J. Tormo


Arterial Supply to the Pancreas: Anatomic Variations Pertinent to Whole Organ Transplantation....F. Badosa, A. Baquero, C. Cope, M. Morris, and A.D. Bannett

Three-Year Experience With Delayed Duct Occlusion in Intraperitoneal Pancreas Transplantation ...M. Decurtins, R. Schlumpf, D. Baumgartner, and F. Largiader


Segmental Pancreas Transplantation With Exocrine Drainage to the Urinary Bladder in Humans.............B. Frisk, L. Hedman, H. Persson, G. Nyberg, and H. Brynger

Effect of Immunosuppression on Pancreatic Graft Survival and Function


Improved Results After Successful Intraperitoneal Transplantation of Cryopreserved Pancreatic Islet Tissue From Multiple Donors in the Rat.............N. Kipping, U.J. Hesse, and R. Grundmann

The Course of Composite Spleen-Islet Allografts in Dogs........U.J. Hesse, P.F. Goes, and D.E.R. Sutherland

Successful Transplantation of Adult and Fetal Mouse Pancreas Islet Cells Using Anti-Class II Antibodies.................................G. Kirste and H. Wilms

Microscopic Aspects of the Structure and Collagen Content of the Pancreas From the Perspective of Islet Isolation ....P.T.R. van Suylichem, A. Pasma, G.H.J. Wolters, and R. van Schilfgaarde


(Continued)
Absorption of Vitamin A After Orthotopic Small Bowel Transplantation: Evidence for the Development of Graft Adaptation to Lipid Metabolism ................ M. Gundlach, P. Schroeder, R. Schindler, and E. Deltz 3965

Hand Transplantation in Baboons .................. G.B. Stark, W.M. Swartz, K. Narayanan, and A.R. Møller 3968

ADVANCES IN IMMUNOSUPPRESSION

New Immunosuppressants

FK-506 in Experimental Renal Allografts .............. D.St.J. Collier, R. Calne, S. Thiru, P.J. Friend, S. Lim, D.J.G. White, H. Kohno, and J. Levickis 3975

Comparison of the New Immunosuppressive Agent 15-Deoxyspergualin and Cyclosporine A After Highly Allogeneic Pancreas Transplantation
G. Schubert, C. Stoffregen, W. Timmermann, T. Schang, and A. Thiede 3978

Deoxyspergualin Induces Tolerance in Allogeneic Kidney Transplantation
P. Walter, G. Dickneite, G. Feifel, and J. Thies 3980

Immunosuppressive Effect of a New Drug, 15-Deoxyspergualin, in Heterotopic Rat Heart Transplantation: In Vivo Energy Metabolic Studies by $^{31}$P-NMR Spectroscopy ......................... S. Suzuki, M. Kanashiro, and H. Amemiya 3982


Effects of Anti-L3T4 and Anti-LYT 2 Monoclonal Antibodies on Murine Cardiac Allograft Rejection ...................... J.C. Madsen, K.J. Wood, and P.J. Morris 3991


Cyclosporine


Cyclosporine A-Related Nephrotoxicity After Cardiac Transplantation: The Role of Plasma Renin Activity ......................... S. Schüler, D. Thomas, and R. Hetzer 3998

(Continued)
Exercise-Induced Hypertension in Normotensive Renal Transplant Recipients
Receiving Cyclosporine A... J.P. Scott, D. Nunez, I.F.C. Hay, T.W. Higenbottam,
D.B. Evans, and R. Calne 4002

Correlation of Increased Serum Calcium Fractions With the Onset of
Cyclosporine-Associated Hypertension in Renal Transplant Patients
G. Buscemi, V. Giannetto, F. Vaccaro, G. Locascio, F.P. Picone, C. Bellavia,
M. Romano, and L.M. Rapisarda 4003

Fractional Excretion of Sodium Represents an Index of Cyclosporine Nephrotoxicity
in the Early Post-Transplant Period ............... J.M. Morales, A. Andres, C. Prieto,
L.M. Ruilope, J.M. Alcazar, A. Ollet, M. Praga, and J.L. Rodicio 4005

Effect of Cyclosporine on Platelet Aggregation in Renal Transplant Recipients
J.P. Scott, D. Nunez, D. Reardon, R. Luddington, J. Folawski, D.B. Evans,
T.W. Higenbottam, and R. Calne 4008

Cyclosporine A Interferes With Postoperative Blood Glucose Control After Clinical
Pancreas Transplantation .............. D. Baumgartner, R. Schlumpf, and F. Largiader 4009

Effects of Cyclosporine A and Prednisolone on Glucose and Lipid Metabolism
S.L. Jensen, K. Falholt, K. Hägen, and O.V. Nielsen 4011

Cyclosporine A in Low Doses Induces Functional and Morphologic Changes in Rat
Pancreatic B Cells ................................... H.C. Fehmann, R. Haverich, F. Stöckmann,
and W. Creutzfeldt 4015

Concomitant Immunosuppressive and Antibiotic Therapy—Reduction of
Cyclosporine A Blood Levels Due to Treatment With Imipenem/Cilastatin
W. Mraz, B. Sido, M. Knedel, and C. Hammer 4017

Dramatic Reduction in Sandimmune (CyA) Dosage May Be Effective in Reversal of
Severe Hyperbilirubinemia and Post-Transplant Acute Kidney Failure Linked to
CyA Toxicity .......... Z. Szewczyk, Z. Hruby, J. Uzar, K. Skóra, Z. Szydlowski,
W. Witkiewicz, and D. Patrzalke 4021

An Accurate, Simple, and Rapid $^{125}$I-Cyclosporine Assay ...... C.J. Hesse, A.v.d. Bernd,
C. Vermeer, N.H.P.M. Jutte, G.F.J. Hendriks, and W. Weimar 4025

Radioimmunoanalysis of Blood Cyclosporine Concentration in Kidney Transplant
Using Solid Phase Sampling ............. A.C. Foradori, A. Loveluck, L. Correa,
L. Rodriguez, and L. Martinez 4027

Cyclosporine A-Related Proximal Tubular Dysfunction: Impaired Handling of Uric
Acid .................................................. D.J. Versluis, G.J. Wenting, J. Jeekel, and W. Weimar 4029

Is Cyclosporine-Associated Nephrotoxicity Progressive? ............. Y. Vanrenterghem,
M. Waer, L. Roels, T. Lerut, and P. Michielsen 4031

Sequential Conventional and Cyclosporine Therapy in Cadaver Renal
Transplantation—A Prospective Randomized Trial ......................... R. Grundmann,
P. Wienand, and U. Hesse 4033

(Continued)
CONTENTS
(continued)

Effect of Cyclosporine A on Post-Ischemic Acute Renal Failure in Conscious Dogs:
Role of Vasoactive Renal Hormones ..........H.-H. Neumayer, A. Löppling, M. Velten,
and K. Wagner 4035

Reduction of Cyclosporine Nephrotoxicity by Prostaglandin E2 After Experimental
Renal Transplantation .........................S. Pomer, L. Röhl, W. Hull, J. Behringer,
and H. Schmidt-Gayk 4041

Improvement of Initial Graft Function After Renal Transplantation by Fosfomycin
J. Hoyer, K. Sack, E. Schulz, and R. Winterhoff 4043

Cyclosporine A Nephrotoxicity in Liver Graft Recipients: Determination of
Nephrototoxic Cyclosporine Blood Concentrations in Liver Graft Recipients as
Defined by the HPLC and RIA Tests ..........G. Hamilton, F. Mühlbacher, E. Roth,
R. Steininger, I. Wolf, J. Schindler, W. Wolosczuk, and F. Piza 4045

INFECTION PROBLEMS IN THE
TRANSPLANT PATIENT

Long-Term Immunoprophylaxis of Hepatitis B Virus Reinfection in Recipients of
Human Liver Allografts .........................W. Lauchart, R. Müller, and R. Pichlmayr 4051

Herpes Virus Infections After Orthotopic Liver Transplantation ..........E.B. Haagsma,
I.J. Klompmaker, J. Grond, C.M.A. Bijleveld, T.H. The, J. Schirm, C.H. Gips,
and M.J.H. Slooff 4054

Incidence and Clinical Course of CMV- (and Herpes Simplex-) Infections Under
Triple Drug Therapy .................B. Greger, G. Dölter, W.D. Schareck, G.H. Müller,
J. Melert, U.T. Hopt, and H. Bockhorn 4057

Cytomegalovirus Prophylaxis After Heart Transplantation Using Specific
Hyperimmunoglobulin ............H.-J. Schäfers, A. Haverich, T. Wahlers, H. Milbradt,
J. Flik, H.G. Fieguth, and H.G. Borst 4061

A Pharmacokinetic Study of Anti-Cytomegalovirus Hyperimmunoglobulins in
Cytomegalovirus Seronegative Cardiac Transplant Recipients
H.J. Metselaar, J. Velzing, P.H. Rothbarth, M.L. Simoons, E. Bos,
and W. Weimar 4063

Prognostic Value of Anti-Cytomegalovirus IgM in Kidney Graft Recipients
J.C. Tardy, C. Pouteil-Noble, J.L. Touraine, and M. Aymard 4066

Virological Implications of the Use of Primates in Xenotransplantation
F. deSt. J. Van der Riet, P.A. Human, D.K.C. Cooper, B. Reichart,
J.E. Fincham, S.S. Kalter, P.J. Kanki, M. Essex, D.L. Madden, M.T. Lai-Tung,
D. Chalton, and J.L. Sever 4068

Induction of Allogeneic Unresponsiveness to Renal Transplants in Rhesus Monkeys
J. Thomas, M. Carver, C. Sash, P. Cunningham, and F. Thomas 4070

(Continued)
Liver Transplantation in Patients With B Viral Hepatitis and Delta Infection
M. Colledan, M. Gislon, M. Doglia, L.R. Fassati, G. Ferla, B. Gridelli, G. Rossi, and D. Galmarini 4073


Tuberculosis and Renal Allograft Transplantation....... H. Riska, C. Grönningen-Riska, and J. Ahonen 4096

ORGAN PRESERVATION


Prostaglandin E2 Increases the Tolerance of the Rat Liver to Warm Ischemia in Absence of Splanchnic Congestion ............... A. Alvarez-Lopez, B. de Hemptinne, Y. Hoebike, and L. Lambotte 4105


Inability to Maintain Adenine Nucleotide Levels by Cold Storage in Ischemically Damaged and Control Kidneys ........ J.G. Maessen, G.J. Van Der Vusse, M. Vork, and G. Kootstra 4112

(Continued)
CONTENTS
(continued)


$^{31}$P Magnetic Resonance Studies of Isolated Rat Small Intestine: Influence of Preservation in Ringer’s Lactate, Eurocollins, and Bretschneider Solution R. Kasperk, C. Kasperk, W. Werk, and D. Leibfritz 4122


Intraoperative Albumin Improves the Outcome of Cadaver Renal Transplantation J. Dawidson, L. Coorpender, D. Drake, H. Helderman, A. Hull, P. Peters, A. Sagalowsky, and J. Reisch 4137


Tubular Function in Renal Transplants Treated With Cyclosporine A .......... P.F. Hoyer, J. Brodehl, H.P. Krohn, and G. Offner 4143


Cyclosporine-Induced Cholestasis: Inhibition of Bile Acid Secretion Is Caused by the Parental Molecule ....................... B. Le Thai, M. Dumont, A. Michel, S. Erlinger, and D. Houssin 4149

Effect of Cyclosporine A on Glucose-Induced Insulin Secretion by Isolated Human Islets of Langerhans ......................... N.H.P.M. Jutte, P. Heyse, G.J. Bruining, G.H. Zeilmaker, and W. Weimar 4152


Physiologic and Hormonal Changes in Experimentally Induced Brain Dead Dogs I. Finkelstein, L.H. Toledo-Pereyra, and J. Castellanos 4156

New Approach to Preservation of Non-Heartbeating Donor Kidneys: Total Body Cooling ..................... J.G. Maessen, G.J. Van Der Vusse, M. Vork, and G. Kootstra 4159

Improved Renal Graft Function After Prostacyclin Pretreatment .......... F. Mühlbacher, T. Sautner, and M. Schemper 4162

Oxygen-Free Radical Scavengers for Renal Preservation .................. P. Baron, C. Casas, J. Heil, R. Condie, and D.E.R. Sutherland 4164

(Continued)
CONTENTS
(continued)

Post-Anoxic Hemodynamic Performance. The Effect of Allopurinol and Superoxide Dismutase/Catalase......J. Bergsland, L. LoBalsamo, P. Lajos, and B. Mookerjee 4165

The Use of D_2O (Heavy Water)-Based Solution for Hypothermic Preservation of the Pancreas .....................U.J. Hesse, P.F. Gores, G. Florack, and D.E.R. Sutherland 4167

Levels of ATP and Graft Function in Human Cadaver Kidneys With Prolonged Cold Ischemia .............A.G. White, M.S.A. Kumar, O.S.G. Silva, I. Al-Shuwaikeh, and G.M. Abouna 4168

Successful 24-Hour Preservation of the Lung—Evaluation of Viability in a Rat Model
M. Semik, W. Konertz, F. Möller, and A. Bernhard 4171


The Effect of Ketanserin During Pulsatile Hypothermic Perfusion of Canine Kidneys
G.V. Vergoulas, M. Papadimitriou, G.E. Efstratiadis, P. Anasis, and E. Alexopoulos 4178

Cadaver Kidney Transplantation Cases With a Cold Ischemia Time of Over 100 Hours .................M. Haberal, S. Sert, N. Aybasti, H. Gulay, G. Arslan, Y. Gungen, T. Kucukali, and N. Bilgin 4184

Renal Transplant Vascular Resistance—Prediction of Immediate Function
J. Taylor, S. Bentley, D. H. Evans, P.S. Veitch, and P.R.F. Bell 4189

Effects of Human Atrial Natriuretic Peptide on Diuresis and Hemodynamics in Oligoanuric Renal Transplant Recipients ......F. Bozkurt, G. Kirste, J. Leipziger, P. Schollmeyer, H. Drexler, and E. Keller 4192

TRANSPLANTATION IMMUNOLOGY

Reduction of Graft Immunogenicity: A New Perspective for Preventing Rejection of T-Depleted Grafts in a Transplantation Model.............P. Dreger, J. Harprecht, E. Westphal, and W. Müller-Ruchholtz 4199


Demonstration of Donor-Specific T Suppressor Lymphocytes in Rats Accepting Orthotopic Liver Allografts ..........H.J. Gassel, I.V. Hutchinson, R. Engemann, and P.J. Morris 4207

(Continued)
Suppression and Stimulation of T Cell Clones of Renal Transplant Recipients by Autologous Post-Transplant Sera: A Role for Regulatory Antibodies

V. Daniel and G. Opelz

Cross-Reactivity of Antibody Response Inhibition by Serum of Rats Immunized With Antigen-Bound Antibody

P. Terness, R. Weimer, A. Saica, and G. Opelz

Identifying a Susceptible Period Following Cyclosporine A-Induced Tolerance of Heart Grafts in the Rat

S.M.L. Lim, D.J.G. White, and R.Y. Calne

Grafting of Allogeneic Cultured Epidermis Does Not Induce Anti-HLA Immunization

H. Betuel, G. Mauduit, L. Gebuhrer, M. Faure, and J. Thivolet

Deoxynanosine-Induced Survival of Class II-Expressing Fetal Mouse Thymic Allografts Is Associated With the Depletion of Donor Lymphoid and Dendritic Cells

A.R. Ready and E.J. Jenkinson

The Influence of Prednisolone on the Regulation of Major Histocompatibility Complex Class II Expression

T.J.M. Ruers, E.E.M. Spronken, and W.A. Buurman

Minor and Class I MHC Incompatibilities Do Not Cause Rejection of Heart Grafts But Influence the Rejection of Skin Grafts

S.M.L. Lim, D.J.G. White, and R.Y. Calne

Functional Blocking of the Interleukin-2 Receptor (IL-2R) May Be Important in the Efficacy of IL-2R Antibody Therapy

G. Tellides, M.J. Dallman, J.W. Kupiec-Weglinski, T. Diamantstein, and P.J. Morris

Synergy Between Cyclosporine and Other Immunosuppressive Regimens in Experimental Organ Transplantation


Hemolytic Anemia in Cyclosporine-Treated Recipients of Kidney or Heart Grafts From Donors With Minor Incompatibility for ABO Antigens


15-Deoxyspergualin (a New Guanidine-like Drug) Blocks T Lymphocyte Proliferation

W. Falk, K. Ulrichs, and W. Müller-Ruchholtz

Transplantation Tolerance After Short-Term Administration of 15-Deoxyspergualin in Orthotopic Rat Liver Transplantation

R. Engemann, H.J. Gassel, E. Lafrenz, C. Stoffregen, and A. Thiede

Skin Transplantation in Rats and Monkeys: Evaluation of Efficient Treatment with 15-Deoxyspergualin

G. Dickneite, H.U. Schorlemmer, E. Weinmann, R.R. Bartlett, and H.H. Sedlacek

Immunosuppressive Activity of Cyclosporine Metabolites In Vitro

CONTENTS

(continued)

Cyclosporine A-Induced Acceptance of Major Histocompatibility
Complex-Incompatible Grafts Differs Immunologically From Class I or Minor
Antigen-Mismatched Grafts Accepted in the Absence of Immunosuppression

S.M.L. Lim, D.J.G. White, and R.Y. Calne 4252

Inhibition of Tolerance Induction by Cyclosporine A........... L.M. Webster, J.L. Milton,
and A.W. Thomson 4254

Induction of Tolerance by Combined Allogeneic and Autologous Bone Marrow
Transplantation ................. A. Gratwohl, H. Baldomero, C. Nissen, and B. Speck 4256

Suppressor T Cells Induced by UV-B Irradiation Suppress DTH to Alloantigens

A. Molendijk, R.J.H.L.M. van Gurp, and R. Benner 4258

Evidence for an Inducer-Suppressor T Cell in the Regulation of DTH to Alloantigens

A. Molendijk, R.J.H.L.M. van Gurp, and R. Benner 4261

Suppressor Cell Activity of Isolated T-Cell Subsets in Successful Organ Transplant
Recipients ....................... E. Ono, R. Schwinzer, K. Wonigeit, and R. Pichlmayr 4265

Characterization of Serum Fcγ-Receptor Blocking Factors Associated With Renal
Allograft Survival.............. G.P. Sandilands, M.A. McMillan, J.E. Cocker, M.G. Peel,
D.J. Tsakiris, J.D. Briggs, B.J.R. Junor, and R.N.M. MacSween 4268

Fine Specificity of a Panel of Antibodies Against the TCR/CD3 Complex


Expression of Proliferation-Associated Nuclear Antigen on Peripheral Lymphocytes
From Heart Transplant Patients...................... L. Dammenhayn, H-J. Schäfers,
H.G. Fieguth, and A. Haverich 4273

Relevance of Non-Major Histocompatibility Complex Antigens in Pancreas
Transplantation ...................... W. Hiller, J. Klempnauer, P. Vogt, B. Steiniger,
and R. Pichlmayr 4274

Prolongation of Renal Allograft Survival by Adoptive Transfer of TDL From Blood
Transfused Hosts............................. R.L. Quigley, K.J. Wood, and P.J. Morris 4276

Role of Class I and Class II Antigens in Specific Immunosuppression After
Transfusion of UV-Irradiated Blood............. M. Poljak-Blaži and M. Hadžija 4279

Three Phenotypically Distinct Populations of T Suppressor Cells Resistant to
Cyclosporine in the Rat.................... M.A. Freitas Rodrigues, I.V. Hutchinson,
and P.J. Morris 4281

Early Detection of Allograft Rejection by Donor-Specific Lymphocyte-Mediated
Cytolysis: Cloning of Cytotoxic Lymphocytes From Positive Patients

I. Durinović-Bellô, J. Pasini, D. Barišić, S. Thune, Z. Puretić, M. Gerenčer,
Z. Tomašković, and A. Kaštelan 4283

(Continued)
CONTENTS

(continued)

Immunohistochemical Findings, Idiotypic Inhibition and Clinical Outcome in Patients 
Developing Donor-Specific Antibodies After Kidney Transplantation

B. Greger, H. Pressler, U.T. Hopt, W.D. Schareck, G.H. Müller, H.J. Reis, 
and H. Bockhorn 4286

Suppression of Human B- and T-Lymphocyte Response In Vitro With Serum From 
Rabbits Immunized With Antibody-Coated Autologous or Allogeneic Cells

R. Weimer, P. Terness, and G. Opelz 4289

Measuring of Idiotypes in Highly Sensitized Patients and Its Relevance in Clinical 

Induction of B-Cell Tolerance to Alloantigens With IgG From Syngeneic Rats 
Pretreated With Antibody-Coated Allogeneic Blood Cells.......................C. Süsal, 
P. Terness, and G. Opelz 4297

B Cell Dysfunction in Renal Allograft Recipients................. J. Juskowa, M. Wasik, 
M. Nowaczyk, and A. Görski 4300

Effect of Treatment With Anti-IL-2 Receptor Monoclonal Antibody and CsA on 
Peripheral Nerve Allograft Rejection....................P.M. Grochowicz, A. Romaniuk, 
T. Diamantstein, and W.L. Olszewski 4302

Treatment With Monoclonal Anti-IL2 Antibody Prolongs Cardiac Allograft Survival 
in Rats .................................................. T. Ohnishi, K. Sakagami, and K. Orita 4304

Effects of CD4 and CD8 Specific Monoclonal Antibodies In Vitro and In Vivo on T 
Cells and Their Relation to the Allograft Response in Rhesus Monkeys 
M. Jonker, F.J.M. Nooij, and G. Steinhof 4308

Value of the Flow Cytometric Crossmatch in Renal Transplantation.......... D. Talbot, 
and R.M.R. Taylor 4315

The Use of Monoclonal Antibodies Against Activated Human T Cells Following Renal 
Allografting in the Baboon.......... P.J. Friend, H. Tighe, S. Lim, D.St.J. Collier, 
M. Decurtins, L.K. Gilliland, S. Thiru, R. Calne, and H. Waldmann 4317

Differential Role of Inducible MHC Class II Antigens and of Constitutive Class I 
Antigens in Graft Immunogenicity: A Rat Model .........................H-U. Wottge 
and W. Müller-Ruchholtz 4319

Poly I:C-Induced Modulation of Class II Antigen Expression in Different Organs of 
the Rat............................................. A. Romaniuk, T. Ryffia, and W.L. Olszewski 4320

Systemic Induction of Class II MHC Antigens After Continuous Intravenous Infusion 
of Recombinant Gamma Interferon in Rats........B. Steiniger, P.H. van der Meide, 
J. Westermann, and J. Klempnauer 4322

Characterization of Cells Expressing HLA Class I Molecules in the Human Pancreas 
A. Leprini, U. Valente, S. Barocci, I. Fontana, R. Pellicci, R. Millo, 
and A. Nocera 4325

(Continued)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Effects of Cyclosporine A on Cyclophosphamide-Induced Eosinophilia, Concomitant B Lymphocytosis, and Generation of Large Granular Lymphocytes in the Rat</td>
<td>H.F. Sewell, I.H. Mathie, and A.W. Thomson</td>
<td>4327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Histologic Changes in Atrophic Spleens of Mice Treated With Cyclosporine A</td>
<td>A.S. Daar, S. Pingle, M. Naiem, and M.A. Masri</td>
<td>4329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Vitro Mechanisms Responsible for Prolonged Rat Cardiac Allograft Survival Induced by Ultraviolet Irradiated Donor-Specific Blood and Cyclosporine</td>
<td>S.F. Oluwole, J. Chabot, P. Pepino, K. Reemtsma, and M.A. Hardy</td>
<td>4331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-Term Acceptance of Pancreatic Allografts in Rats During Trough Level-Controlled Cyclosporine A Treatment</td>
<td>G. Loske, W. Timmermann, G. Schubert, G. Leimenstoll, T. Schang, C. Stoffregen, and A. Thiede</td>
<td>4334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed Islet-Lymphocyte Culture as a Model for Pancreatic Islet Immunogenicity and Cell-Mediated Immune Injury</td>
<td>P. Stock, N. Ascher, D. Kaufman, and D. Sutherland</td>
<td>4345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cells Involved in Rejection of Rat Heart Allografts</td>
<td>E. Bouwman, J.N.M. Ijzermans, R.W.F. de Bruin, E. Heineman, R.L. Marquet, and J. Jeekel</td>
<td>4347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum Immunoreactive Interleukin-1 in Renal Transplant Recipients</td>
<td>C.P.J. Maury and A-M. Teppo</td>
<td>4349</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS IN TRANSPLANTATION**

Interleukin-1 Stimulation in the ESRD Patient: Potential Long-Term Consequences | S. Shaldon, M. Elie, K.M. Koch, and C.A. Dinarello | 4353 |

**TRANSPLANTATION WORKSHOPS**

**Liver Transplantation**

Recent Developments in Pediatric Liver Transplantation | J.B. Otte, T. Yandza, K.C. Tan, M. Salizzoni, J. de Ville de Goyet, and B. de Hemptinne | 4361 |
CONTENTS (continued)

Liver Transplantation in Acute Fulminant Hepatic Failure.................. J.A.C. Buckels 4365

Rejection of the Liver and Review of Current Immunosuppressive Protocols
  R. Pichlmayr and G. Gubernatis 4367

The Role of Auxiliary Liver Transplantation......................... O.T. Terpstra, S.W. Schalm,
  C.B. Reuvers, D. Baumgartner, T.H.N. Groenland, F.J.W. ten Kate, J. Stibbe,
  J.L. Terpstra, W. Weimar, and P.J.A. Willemse 4370

Heart and Lung Transplantation

Pathology of Pulmonary Hypertension................................................. W.J. Mooi 4373

Heterotopic Heart Transplantation............. R. Margreiter, C. Prior, R. Kornberger,
  J. Koller, E. Steiner, M. Spielberger, and F. Gschnitzer 4375

CONGRESS VIDEO PRESENTATIONS

Orthotopic Liver Transplantation in a Patient With Sclerosing Cholangitis
  V. Martinez Ibañez, C. Margarit, J. Lloret, G. Barat, H. Ventura, J. Broto,
  and J. Boix-Ochoa 4379

Orthotopic Transplantation of Resected Liver Allografts....... I.R. Marino, G. De Luca,
  E. Santini, S. Celli, P. Bevilacqua, A. Frena, C. Di Pietro, C. Cavicchioni,
  M.B. Detweiler, G. De Francisci, E. Gualtieri, and L. Perrelli 4381

Small Bowel Transplantation in the Rat: A New Technique............. J. Wallander,
  G. Läckgren, E. Sandström, E. Larsson, and G. Tufveson 4387
An authoritative addition to the field of transplantation medicine!

TRANSPLANTATION TODAY
VOLUME IX

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1987, 3000 pp., three volume set (not sold separately)
$198.00 until 5-31-87; $298.00 6-1-87 thereafter

This volume is the ninth in a series of biennial in-depth reviews of world transplantation and has become a classic in its field today. 

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CONTENTS

CLINICAL TRANSPLANTATION

INTRODUCTORY

Activity of the ABO Antigen System as a Determinant of Histocompatibility in Human Transplantation

F. T. Rapaport and J. Dausset

The Definition of ABO Factors in Transplantation: Relation to Other Humoral Antibody States

T. E. Starzl, A. Tzakis, L. Makowka, B. Banner, A. Demetrius, G. Ramsey, R. Duquesnoy, and M. Griffin

Low Kidney Graft Survival in Lewis Negative Patients After Regrafting and Newer Matching Schemes for Lewis...

R. Roy, P. I. Terasaki, D. Chia, and M. R. Mickey

Failure of Lewis Blood Group Matching to Influence Renal Allograft Outcome


Low Anti-A and Anti-B Titers in Some Type O Patients May Permit Renal Transplantation Across the ABO Barrier

J. M. Cecka, S. E. Breidenthal, and P. I. Terasaki

Cellular Immune Response Against Human Red Blood Cell Antigens and Renal Allograft Rejection

M. Ishibashi, Y. Kokado, S. Takahara, Y. Ichikawa, and T. Sonoda

Hemolytic Anemia Is Not a Frequent Complication of ABO Unmatched Renal Allografts From Living Related Donors

W. M. Baldwin III, R. R. Bollinger, and F. Sanfilippo

Auto-Antibodies Against Erythrocytes in Transplant Patients Produced by Donor Lymphocytes

B. G. Solheim, D. Albrechtsen, T. Egeland, A. Flatmark, P. Fauchald, T. Frøysaker, A. Jakobsen, and G. Sjødal

ABO-Compatible Mismatching Decreases 5-Year Actuarial Graft Survival After Renal Transplantation


Technical Aspects of Antibody Immunoadsorption Prior to ABO-Incompatible Renal Transplant

R. Raja, R. McAlack, M. Mendez, and A. Bannett

KIDNEY

Blood Group ABO-Incompatible (A₂ to O) Kidney Transplantation in Human Subjects: A Clinical, Serologic, and Biochemical Approach

L. Rydberg, M. E. Breimer, B. E. Samuelsson, and H. Brynger

(Continued)
EXPERIMENTAL TRANSPLANTATION

Is ABO Compatibility Essential in Xenografting Between Closely Related Species?

D.K.C. Cooper, P.A. Human, and A.G. Rose

Prolongation of Cardiac Xenograft (Vervet Monkey to Baboon) Function by a Combination of Total Lymphoid Irradiation and Immunosuppressive Drug Therapy

D.K.C. Cooper, P.A. Human, and B. Reichart

Isohemagglutinins and Preformed Natural Antibodies in Xenogeneic Organ Transplantation

C. Hammer

Primate Animal Model for the Study of ABO Incompatibility in Organ Transplantation

W.W. Socha, C.C. Marboe, R.E. Michler, E.A. Rose, and J. Moor-Jankowski

Simian-Type Blood Group Antigens in Nonhuman Primate Cardiac Xenotransplantation


Humoral Rejection Mechanisms and ABO Incompatibility in Renal Transplantation

L.C. Paul and W.M. Baldwin III

Overview: Significance of Vascular Endothelial Cell Antigen

J. Cerilli, J. Clarke, A. Abrams, and L. Brasile

Renal Xenograft Rejection: Prolonging Effect of Captopril, ACE-Inhibitors, Prostacyclin, and Cobra Venom Factor

E. Kemp, D. Steinbrüchel, H. Starklint, S. Larsen, I. Henriksen, and H. Dieperink

Preliminary Human Study of Synthetic Trisaccharide Representing Blood Substance A

E.L. Romano, A. Soyano, and J. Linares

Interaction of IgG and IgM Anti-A With Synthetic Oligosaccharides

E.L. Romano, J. Bhardwaj, S. Kelly, M. Olson, L.R. Lamontagne, J. Barrington Leigh, and G.J. Lauzon
Post-Congress Workshops on Organ Preservation and Immunosuppression

Great Barrier Reef, North Queensland.

ASSOCIATED MEETINGS

Rat Genetics

Fiji. August 6-13, 1988. Contact person—Professor B. Heslop, Department of Surgery, Medical School, Otago University, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Retrovirally Mediated Gene Transfer Workshop

Sydney. August 10-12, 1988. Contact: Dr G. Symonds, Childrens Medical Research Foundation, PO Box 61, Camperdown, NSW, 2050, Australia.

Australasian and South East Asian Tissue Typing Association

Canberra, ACT, August 20-21, 1988. Contact: Dr S.W. Serjeantson, Department of Human Genetics, John Curtin School of Medical Research, Australian National University, ACT, 2601, Australia.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Congress Venue

The Convention Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney.

Registration

Registration documents and abstract submission forms will be SENT to ALL MEMBERS of the Transplantation Society in September, 1987. Deadline for submission of abstracts is January 15, 1988.

NON-MEMBERS are WELCOME.

Please contact the Registration and Accommodation address below for registration documents and abstract forms.

Addresses

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(ME 2626)
Recent Improvement in Clinical Pancreas Transplantation

W-D. Illner, S. Schleibner, D. Abendroth, R. Landgraf, and W. Land

AT THE PRESENT TIME, there are promising and encouraging data indicating that successful human pancreas transplantation has a beneficial effect on the diabetic microangiopathic lesions found in organs like the kidney, eye, and nervous system.1,2 In Autumn 1984, some modifications in the management of this type of organ transplantation have been introduced by our group, which have led to improved results. They are briefly mentioned in this report.

PATIENTS AND METHODS

This paper presents the experience with a subgroup of 25 simultaneous pancreas and kidney transplanted diabetic patients out of a total of 71 pancreas transplantations. One of those patients was retransplanted. The time of follow-up lasted from September 1984 up to March 1987. All patients received a segmental allograft and a kidney from the same donor.

Recipient Selection Criteria

The mean age of the recipients was 30 years (12 females, 13 males). Only one recipient had diabetic nephropathy without dialysis treatment. All patients were suffering from severe stage II and III retinopathy and mild to severe peripheral neuropathy. In all recipients we performed a coronary angiography.

Surgical Technique

We used the duct occlusion technique with prolamine. The pancreatic allograft was placed strictly intraperitoneally, and the abdominal cavity was irrigated for about 3 days to eliminate the transient residual exocrine secretion.

Immunosuppressive Protocol

We started with a quadruple drug induction therapy consisting of:
1. Cyclosporine IV: 1 mg/kg body weight (B.W.) by 24-hour infusion (blood levels: 100-350 ng/ml); → switch to oral application (~10 mg/kg B.W.) (blood levels: 300-800 ng/ml)
2. Azathioprine: 2-1 mg/kg B.W. daily
3. ATG, (ALG): 4 mg/kg (20 mg/kg) B.W. for 10 days
4. Steroids: (methylprednisolone) 500 mg intraoperatively, reduced to maintenance dose of 30 mg daily

Triple drug therapy, that is, cyclosporine, azathioprine, and steroids was given for a period of 6 months. The maintenance therapy consists of cyclosporine and azathioprine for life.

Anticoagulation Protocol

Because of the high incidence of heparin-induced bleedings posttransplant, we changed our anticoagulation therapy and applied a combination of Rheomacrodex (Dextran 40, Knoll) and smaller amounts of heparin:
- Rheomacrodex (Knoll) plus 200-400 I. U. heparin/hour for 3 weeks, partial thromboplastin time of 40 seconds (PTT: 40")
- "Low dose" heparin for a period of 6 weeks post-transplant.

RESULTS

Pancreas and kidney survival rates were 74% and 71%, respectively (Fig 1). The patient survival rate was 100% (Fig 2). A fatal cause was observed in a 54-year-old male dying 9 months after simultaneous grafting with a functioning kidney. In this patient, death was the consequence of diabetic complications and not caused by the transplantation itself. If we take this patient into account, the survival rate is 93%.

CONCLUSION

With a modified surgical technique, immunosuppressive therapy, and anticoagulation,
we improved our results in combined pancreas and kidney transplantation. Mortality and morbidity, particularly postoperative complications in this group, have been reduced remarkably.

REFERENCES