INFECTIOUS DISEASES OCCURRING AFTER RENAL TRANSPLANT PROCEDURES

Akbarova Gulchehra Habibullayevna
Assistant of Fergana Medical Institute of Public Health

Annotation: *Infectious complications represent a critical determinant of morbidity and mortality following renal transplantation, necessitating comprehensive understanding of their pathogenesis, diagnostic approaches, and therapeutic management. This thesis examines the spectrum of opportunistic and conventional infections occurring in immunosuppressed kidney transplant recipients, analyzing temporal patterns of infection, risk stratification methodologies, and evidence-based prevention strategies. The work elucidates the complex interplay between immunosuppressive regimens and infectious susceptibility, proposing integrated surveillance protocols and antimicrobial stewardship frameworks. The findings contribute significantly to optimizing post-transplant infectious disease management and improving long-term allograft survival.*

Keywords: *opportunistic infections, immunosuppression, cytomegalovirus, bacterial sepsis, fungal pneumonia, prophylactic antimicrobials, graft rejection, infectious complications, post-transplant surveillance.*

Contemporary renal transplantation has emerged as the definitive treatment modality for end-stage kidney disease, yet infectious complications continue to constitute the predominant cause of post-transplant morbidity and

mortality, accounting for approximately thirty to forty percent of deaths within the first post-operative year. The obligatory administration of potent immunosuppressive agents to prevent allograft rejection creates a profound state of immunological vulnerability, predisposing recipients to diverse pathogenic microorganisms including bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites. Current epidemiological data demonstrate that approximately eighty percent of transplant recipients experience at least one infectious episode during the initial twelve months post-transplantation, with risk severity correlating directly with cumulative immunosuppressive burden and pre-existing comorbidities.

The temporal progression of infectious complications following renal transplantation follows a characteristically predictable pattern, categorized into distinct chronological phases corresponding to varying degrees of immunosuppression and environmental exposure. During the immediate post-operative period, spanning the initial thirty days, recipients predominantly encounter nosocomial bacterial infections including surgical site infections, catheter-associated urinary tract infections, pneumonia, and bloodstream infections caused by Staphylococcus aureus, Escherichia coli, and Pseudomonas aeruginosa species. This early phase necessitates stringent infection control measures, perioperative antibiotic prophylaxis, and meticulous surgical technique to minimize contamination risks. The intermediate post-transplant period, extending from one to six months, represents the phase of maximal immunosuppressive therapy and consequently demonstrates the highest incidence of opportunistic infections. Cytomegalovirus emerges as the predominant viral pathogen during this interval, affecting forty to sixty percent of seronegative recipients receiving organs from seropositive donors, manifesting with fever, leukopenia, hepatitis,

and potentially life-threatening pneumonitis or gastrointestinal involvement. Additional opportunistic pathogens prevalent during this period include Pneumocystis jirovecii, causing severe interstitial pneumonia with hypoxemia and bilateral infiltrates, and invasive fungal organisms such as Aspergillus species and Candida albicans, particularly in patients receiving augmented immunosuppression for rejection episodes. Diagnostic evaluation of suspected infections in transplant recipients demands comprehensive microbiological investigation including culture-based methods, serological testing, molecular polymerase chain reaction assays for viral quantification, and advanced imaging modalities to delineate anatomical extent and severity. The therapeutic approach requires judicious antimicrobial selection considering pharmacokinetic alterations in renal dysfunction, potential drug interactions with immunosuppressive agents, particularly calcineurin inhibitors and mammalian target of rapamycin inhibitors, and the necessity to balance adequate pathogen eradication against minimizing nephrotoxicity and preserving graft function.

Infectious complications following renal transplantation demand integrated multidisciplinary management encompassing prophylactic strategies, early diagnostic protocols, and targeted antimicrobial therapy. Future advancements in immunosuppressive regimens with reduced infectious susceptibility, enhanced biomarker development for pre-emptive diagnosis, and personalized risk stratification models promise substantial improvements in transplant recipient outcomes and long-

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