The risk and benefits of receiving an HCV positive organ were discussed with all candidates who agreed to accept an HCV positive organ. In January 2019, the Hepatitis C Positive Donor to Hepatitis C Negative Recipient Transplant Program was established at the University of Louisville Hospital, Louisville, Kentucky. The purpose of this program was to increase availability of donor organs and expand the criteria for organ transplantation for people with end stage liver or kidney disease.

Methods

- Criteria for receiving an HCV positive liver transplant included a MELD score greater than 18 and no known malignancy. Kidney transplant recipients must have been in end-stage renal disease and met all usual and customary criteria for transplant.
- Candidates who met the criteria for liver, kidney, or both were evaluated by a transplant surgeon and nurse practitioner.
- The risk and benefits of receiving an HCV positive organ were discussed with all candidates who agreed to accept an HCV positive organ.
- Patients who consented to receiving an HCV positive organ were flagged in the United Network for Organ Sharing database.
- When an organ became available, patients were transplanted followed by treatment with a DAA in the post-transplant period.

Results

- From December 2019 through September 2020, 21 patients have received an HCV positive organ transplant; 6 liver, 14 kidney and 1 simultaneous liver and kidney. The age range was 30-74 years, mean 58.4 years. Six women and 15 men were transplanted.
- 20 patients started treatment with a DAA. As of September 2020, 16 patients have completed treatment and 11 have achieved cure. One patient experienced virologic treatment failure, and one liver transplant recipient died from sepsis prior to receiving DAA therapy.

Background

- The Jewish Hospital Transplant program has been transplanting organs since 1964 and has been a leader in the field of solid organ and hand transplantations.
- In January 2019, the Hepatitis C Positive Donor to Hepatitis C Negative Recipient Transplant Program was established under the direction of the University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky.

Conclusion

- The UofL Health Jewish Hospital Hepatitis C Positive Donor to Hepatitis C Negative Recipient Transplant Program has increased availability of donor organs and transplantations for people with end stage liver or kidney disease.
- Using DAA therapy in the post-transplant period is well-tolerated among patients and yields similar efficacy as non-transplant patients.

References


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