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Analysis of costs of long-term post-transplant care

ABSTRACT

Solid organ transplantation is a medical procedure that prolongs the patients' life, improves their quality of life, and brings tangible economic benefits to the health care system. However, it should be remembered that the medical problems that increase over time after organ transplantation lead to an increase in the costs of diagnostics and treatment. Due to the fact that the economic effects of treatment the patients with transplants in the late post-transplant period have not been assessed so far, it seemed indicated to perform a study on this subject. The aims of the study were: 1.to assess whether the mean and median costs of post-transplant care do not increase in the late period after kidney transplantation, 2.to identify clinical situations leading to an increase in individual costs of care for patients with organ transplantation - I assumed that such situations could be the final period of kidney or liver transplant function and acute antibody-dependent rejection of the kidney transplant. In my study, I assessed the direct costs from the perspective of a transplant center thet provides the long-term post-transplant care. The analysis included selected patients under the care of the outpatient department of the Department of Immunology, Transplant Medicine and Internal Diseases of the Medical University of Warsaw, Poland. As a result of the analysis, it was shown that: 1.the mean and median costs of care after kidney transplantation do not increase in the late period, even until the 25th year post-transplantation, 2. the final period of the function of the transplanted kidney is associated with a significant increase in the individual costs of care, which is, however, not observed in liver transplant patients, 3. antibody-dependent rejection of kidney transplant clearly increases the costs of post-transplant care. These results should be taken into account in the organization of medical care of transplant patients.