

Kidney Transplantation in Korea

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Kidney transplantation clearly improves the quality of life compared with other modalities of renal replacement therapy and confers a significant survival benefit. In Korea, the first kidney transplantation was performed at 1969, and since then, the annual number of kidney transplantation have increased to over 1800 cases in 2015. During this period, not only the amount of total transplantation number, but also the allograft outcome showed significant improvement. However, donor shortage is still the main obstacle for end stage renal disease patients to have a chance to take transplantation in Korea. Therefore, the patient number on the waiting list for deceased kidney transplantation (DDKT) have reached 16,000 at the end of 2015. To overcome this severe donor shortage, many efforts have been attempted. In living donor KT, many transplant centers started ABO incompatible KT, or KT in highly sensitized patients newly developed drugs and immunologic diagnostic tools. In DDKT, attempt to use kidneys from expanded criteria donor showed increasing pattern with acceptable clinical outcomes. In addition, many innovative therapeutic and diagnostic challenges has been introduced, and it is expected that those efforts may increase potential donor pool and also improve allograft outcomes. In this presentation, I will show such important changes and trends in the field of kidney transplantation in Korea.