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Follow-up study of COVID-19 recovered kidney transplant patients: First report in the context of transplantation

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Objectives: Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) sequelae are scarcely reported in renal transplant recipients (KTR). The objective of the study was to study the comprehensive follow-up course of the recovered COVID-19 patients

Methods: We detailed 142 hospitalized KTR with a median (IQR, range) follow-up of 7(6-9, 5-11) months who recovered from SARS-CoV-2 during May 2020 to Dec 2020 in a single centre from India.

Results: The COVID-19 severity of the cohort [aged 43(34-69) years] ranged from asymptomatic (4%), mild (50%), moderate (35%) to severe (12%). The common symptoms were fatigue (32.3%), muscle pain (25.1%), decreased appetite (17.2%) and altered sleep (15.8%) at 1-month, and disturbed sleep (6.6%) and appetite loss (5.1%) at ≥ 6-month follow-up. Anxiety/depression improved in extended follow-up (37% vs 14%; p-value: 0.001). Decrements in the visual analogue scale (VAS) for overall health at 1-month discharge improved significantly in the subsequent follow-up [28.6(13) vs 10.4(12.5) vs 7.5(12.0); p-value: 0.012]. Overall, there were 6 deaths and 10 graft losses in the study.

Conclusions: To date, this is the largest cohort studying SARS-CoV-2 sequelae in KTR. Deaths reported were mostly due to fungal infection within a short span following discharge and graft loss was exclusive to chronic graft dysfunction. Our initial assessment reports no speculated immune injuries, cardiovascular, neurologic, or pulmonary complications in follow-up.