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Strategies to Increase Kidney Transplantation

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Increasing end-stage kidney disease (ESKD) prevalence represents a significant healthcare challenge worldwide, including Taiwan. Among the treatment options of ESKD, kidney transplant is the best kidney replacement therapy. However, the prevalence and incidence of kidney transplant is not satisfactory comparing to dialysis therapy. The phenomenon is even more prominent in Asia countries. It is imperative to develop strategies aimed at increasing kidney transplant rates and enhancing quality, particularly for nephrologists who are at the forefront of caring for patients with kidney failure. Four strategies are proposed to enhance kidney transplant services. Firstly, having an eagle view to understand the whole picture of the kidney replacement therapy. Secondly, analyzing the epidemiological characteristics of kidney disease in each country can help identify key barriers to increasing kidney transplants. Thirdly, efforts should focus on expanding the donor pool as much as possible. The policy and measurement for the organ donation should match the advance of the healthcare system globally and local culture background. The balance between two conditions should be found. Lastly, we, nephrologists, should step up as a trans-disciplinary platform of all the healthcare problem for this specific group of patients. Our proactive engagement can truly make the difference. The complexity of the kidney transplant, spanning ethical considerations, organ procurement, harvesting, implantation, and postoperative care, necessitate close collaboration among various disciplines. Nephrologist play a pivotal role in the kidney transplant caring team. We advocate for greater involvement of nephrologists in the comprehensive care of transplant patients. By actively engaging nephrologists in patient care, we can establish an integrated approach to serve the complex needs of kidney transplant recipients effectively.

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