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Gender Disparity in Kidney Transplantation in Asia Pacific

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Gender disparity in kidney transplantation has been reported worldwide, and especially in living donor kidney transplantation, it is more apparent that recipients are predominantly men and donors are predominantly women there are more male recipients and more female donors. In particular, the impact is more pronounced in the Asia-Pacific region, where there are fewer deceased donor kidney transplantations and more living donor kidney transplantations than in the Western countries. According to a survey conducted by the Asian Society Transplantation and Women in Transplantation in 2021, in majority of 13 participating countries, the proportion of women among living donors exceeded 50%, and the proportion women among recipients was women in 20-50%. In particular, in spousal kidney transplantation, women were the donors in 60-90% of cases. In the case of deceased donor kidney transplantation, according to data from Asian organ transplantation registry(ASTREG)-WIT-KT, a registry that collected data on kidney transplantation in six countries in the Asia Pacific region, less than 50% of recipients were women and about 20-40% of donors were women. Biological, economic, and socio-cultural factors are suggested as causing gender disparity in kidney transplantation. However, analysis and research on the causes of gender disparity in kidney transplantation are lacking in the Asia Pacific region. Future efforts are needed to increase access to kidney transplantation and enhance gender equality in the Asia Pacific region.

Keywords: kidney transplantation, gender disparity, Asia Pacific