

Role of dialysis nurses in managing kidney transplant patients on the waiting list

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Introduction

Kidney transplant provides many advantages over haemodialysis, including patients' higher quality of life. As fewer donor organs are available than needed, it is a challenge to make someone registered on the transplant waiting list.

Objectives

To demonstrate the role of dialysis nurses in the registration of candidates and in the management of follow-up examinations of active waiting list of patients.

Methods

The role of dialysis nurse: informing patients, handling documents, giving over referrals, collecting medical findings, archiving documents, facilitating Transplant Committee decisions, taking blood samples (retyping, serum collection), reporting, coordinating annual control examinations, contacting patients, answering questions, following changes, transplantation alert.

The process of placing patients on the transplant list, informing patients: local documents, documents and videos of the Hungarian Transplant Committee.

Examinations: searching for infections (dentistry, gynaecology, urology, dermatology, ENT, throat and urine culture), abdominal ultrasound, chest x-ray, carotis Doppler, pelvic CT, mammography, cardiological examinations (echocardiography, ergometry, coronarography if needed).

Collecting medical findings, recipients form, virus serology, blood group, referring patients to the Transplant Committee with medical records, decision of the Committee, HLA typing, placing patients on the list, annual control examinations, reporting changes. (Figure 1.)

Results

40 patients got on the transplant list in the past 10 years. 16 patients got second or third time on the list, 3 patients are on combined list (pancreas-kidney). Only a few additional tests were needed according to the request of the Transplant Committee. (Figure 2.)

Conclusion

The role of dialysis nurse is very important in the management of patients on the kidney transplant list. It is important to identify the responsible person. Our system can help for the suitable patients in getting on the list as soon as possible. It is a complex task that needs extensive organization and continuous maintenance.

References

- <http://emedicine.medscape.com>
- Matkó I.: A transzplantációs várólisták kezeléséről LAM 2008;18(5):435-438. 1

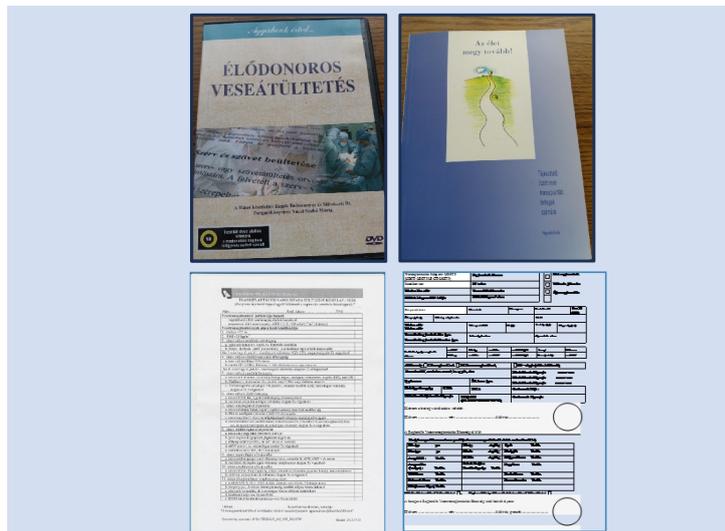


Figure 1. Documentation of transplant waiting list

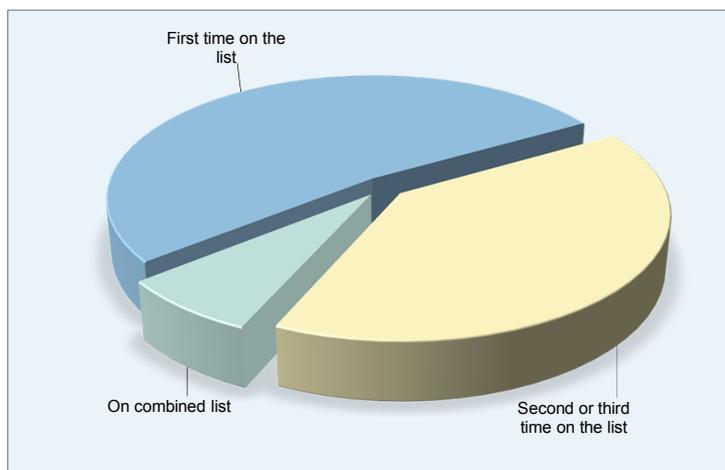


Figure 2. The proportion of patients on transplant waiting list