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Novel therapies for hepatitis C in dialysis and kidney transplant recipients

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Chronic hepatitis C remains an important health problem in chronic kidney disease and is associated with reduced graft survival after renal transplantation. It is more common in developing countries and in haemodialysis centers, where there is a break in universal precautions during reuse of haemodialyzers. Hepatitis C is also associated with increased rates of rejection, new onset diabetes mellitus and occurrence of de-novo glomerulonephritis after renal transplant. It is associated with fibrosing cholestatic hepatitis and extra hepatic complications like vasculitis. The recommended treatment in the post-transplant setting with interferon is only when the benefits of the treatment outweigh the risks. Conventional interferon therapy in the post renal transplant scenario has been associated with increased rates of allograft rejection. Directly acting antivirals (DAA) could offer a new therapeutic armamentarium in post renal transplant recipients without precipitating rejection. Newer drugs like sofosbuvir, ledipasvir and daclatasvir have been used in hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis patients to achieve a sustained virological response before renal transplant. The above strategy has shown better outcome in terms of patient tolerability of drugs and sustained remission rates of virological response after transplant.

Biography

B Balaji Kirushnan has completed his Medical training in the year 2012. He has won the Apollo Gold Medal award in Internal Medicine during his Post-graduation. He has been trained in various fields of Nephrology like acute renal failure, continuous renal replacement therapy, peritoneal dialysis and renal transplant. He has also been trained in renal histopathology and across the blood group renal transplantation. He has given various lectures to physicians to highlight the importance of referral to a Nephrologist. He is a member of Indian Society of Nephrology and Indian Society of Nephrology southern chapter. He has been certified by Royal College of Physicians, UK in Nephrology. He has a number of case reports to his publications. He has won accolades and is prized for poster presentations in various international and national conferences. A special interest in research has made him a part of the ongoing research in clinical trials in nutrition in haemodialysis and novel therapies of hepatitis C.

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