

13th Annual Conference on

NEPHROLOGY & RENAL CARE

May 24-25, 2018 Tokyo, Japan

Internet and social network users' profiles in renal transplant recipients in France

Yosra Mouelhi, Marine Alessandrini, Vanessa Pauly, Bertrand Dussol and Stéphanie Gentile
Marseill, France

Background & Aim: The use of the internet for searching and sharing health information and for health care interactions may have a great potential for Renal Transplant Recipients (RTR). This study aims to determine the characteristics associated with internet and social network use in a representative sample of RTR at the time of their inclusion in the study.

Method: Data of this cross-sectional design is retrieved from a longitudinal study conducted in five French kidney transplant centers in 2011 and included renal transplant recipients aged 18 years with a functioning graft for at least 1 year. Measures include demographic characteristics (age, gender, level of education, employment status, living arrangement, having children, invalidity and monthly incomes in the household), psycho-social characteristics measured by the perceived social support questionnaire and medical characteristics [previous dialysis treatment, duration since transplantation, graft rejection episodes, chronic graft dysfunction, health status and comorbidities: Neoplasia for the current transplant, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, smoking status, BMI>30 kg/m² and Charlson Comorbidity Index (CCI)]. Polytomous linear regression analysis was performed to describe the internet and social network users' profiles, using lack of internet access as the comparison category.

Result: Among the 1416 RTR participating in the study, 20.1% had no internet access in the household, 29.4% connected to social networks and 50.5% were not connected to social networks. Patients who connected the most to the internet and social networks were younger, male, without children, employed, with high monthly incomes in the household, without hypertension and having felt a need for an informative or an esteem support.

Conclusion: In our study, the majority of RTR were actively using internet and social networks. Renal transplant units should develop flexible and web-based sources related to transplant information, which will allow a rapid adaptation to change in prevalent practice, improve the health of the patients and reflect their preferences.

yosra.mouelhi@ap-hm.fr