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Its about time: Raising awareness of organ donation within the Pakistani/Indian Muslim community

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Organ transplants save and improve lives of people with end stage organ failure. The demand for organ transplants outweigh the supply in the UK and this shortage is more acute within the Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups. There are nearly a quarter of people from BAME groups waiting for a kidney transplant although fewer than 2% of those who have joined the organ donor register to pledge their organs for transplantation after their death are from BAME groups. There is a significant shortage of donors from the BAME population. The UK can and must do more to save and improve lives through organ donation and transplantation and aim to change the current situation. The most successful transplant will come when best matched. Blood group and tissue typing are test which are carried out to find the best possible match and organ matching is likely to be closer when the ethnicity of the donor and the recipient are same. The project aimed to raise awareness of organ donation within the Pakistani Muslim community in Blackburn Lancashire. 30 questionnaires were distributed amongst the community. The questionnaire enquired about the participants understanding of organ donation and how the participants accessed media platforms to gain information. Three focus groups were held within the community of Blackburn. The participants ages ranged from 16-65 years. The focus groups were transcribed and analysed using a thematic approach.

The associations of endocannabinoids and metabolites of adipose tissue in kidney transplant recipients

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Endocannabinoids (EKB) influence the function of endocrine, nervous and immune system, as well as may modify metabolism of lipids, carbohydrates and adipose tissue. EKB may also participate in the development of inflammation, in adhesion, migration and apoptosis of inflammatory cells. The most well-known EKB are anandamide and 2-arachidonylglycerol. They are closely associated with abnormalities in the glucose/lipid metabolism which is deregulated in patients after transplantation.On the other hand, action of these lipids on immune or endothelial cells may play a crucial role in determination of allograft survival. EKB may inhibit migration of immune cells to the site of transplanted allograft. EKB seem to be a promising target of research, potentially leading to improvement of both -early- and long-term outcome of transplanted kidney allograft. Our study included 35 patients after kidney transplantation from Nephrology, Transplantology and Internal Diseases Departments of Pomeranian Medical University and 40 healthy-individuals as control. Blood were collected directly before and at 5-7 day after transplantation and plasma concentration of anandamide and 2-arachidonylglyceroland adipocytokines: adiponectin, leptin were analyzed. We also examined serum biochemical parametersand lipid profile. Serum NGAL, creatinine and eGFR were evaluated as well as marked the renal function. Our study i) supports the significance of selected endocannabinoids in the in kidney transplant recipients ii) highlights associations between endocannabinoids and adipocytokines in kidney transplant recipients iii) preliminarily characterizes the diagnostic potential of EKBin kidney transplantation. This study was supported by a grant awarded by the Polish National Science Center.

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