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Evaluation of knowledge about and attitudes towards kidney transplantation in patients undergoing hemodialysis treatment

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Introduction: Kidney Transplantation (KT) has become the most desirable treatment option for patients with renal failure because of its efficacy and health outcomes. The aim of the present study was to evaluate hemodialysis (HD) patients' knowledge about and attitudes towards KT.

Patients and Methods: A total of 104 patients from two HD centers in a large city in central Turkey were included in this study. Each patient completed a questionnaire that was developed by researchers. The questionnaire included demographic data, dialysis vintage, level of satisfaction resulting from HD treatment willingness to undergo transplantation, knowledge about KT and choice of donor etc.

Results: The mean age of the 104 patients was 60.03±17.01 years and dialysis vintage was 4.53±3.04 years. Of these patients, 62.5% declared their willingness to undergo KT and among these, 76.9% declared that they had knowledge about the transplantation procedure. Of the patients willing to undergo KT, 60.9% cited the dialysis procedure as a sensible reason while 85.0% declared their advanced age to be an obstacle regarding their concerns about transplantation. In regard to choice of donor, 79.7% stated that it was not important while 56.7% were not informed about the existence of a waiting list for cadaveric donors.

Conclusions: In order to increase in our country the number of cadaveric donors which represent the most appropriate source of organ donation, several strategies should be considered such as awareness-raising activities for patients and the community through campaigns by both the public and private sectors and mass media.

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