



The High Risk Recipient

Turn the Beat around: Impact of Coronary Artery Disease on Transplant Outcomes

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Coronary artery disease has great impact on transplant outcomes:

- First, it is a major cause of death in patients with organ failure awaiting transplantation, e.g. renal failure patients on dialysis.
- Second, it is a relative contra-indication to the performance of non-cardiac organ transplantation, unless satisfactory revascularization is accomplished pre-operatively.
- Third, advanced disease manifesting as ischemic heart failure is a leading cause for cardiac transplantation.
- Fourth, it is a significant mode of death after successful transplantation, e.g. patients with functioning renal allografts.
- Finally, it is the greatest obstacle to the long term success of cardiac transplantation.

The link between organ dysfunction, allograft rejection, native coronary atherosclerosis, and graft arteriosclerosis is inflammation. The speaker will present clinical and experimental evidence that supports this hypothesis and will highlight deficits in our knowledge and understanding of this problem. Management algorithms, practice guidelines, and potential future therapies to minimize the impact of coronary artery disease on transplant outcomes will also be discussed.