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Intravenous immunoglobulins in liver transplant patients: Perspectives of clinical immune modulation

Arno Kornberg

Abstract

Shortage of appropriate donor grafts is the foremost current problem in organ transplantation. As a logical consequence, waiting times have increased and pretransplant mortality rates were significantly increasing. **75** The implementation of a priority-based liver allocation **26** system using the model stage liver disease (MELD) score helped to **74** reduce waiting list mortality in liver transplantation (LT). However, due to an escalating organ scarcity, LT MELD scores have significantly increased and liver recipients became more complex in recent years. This has finally led to posttransplant death survival rates, attributed mainly to elevated rates of infectious and immunologic complications. To meet this challenging development, an increasing number of extended criteria donor (ECD) grafts are currently accepted, which may, however, aggravate the patients' infectious and immunologic profiles.

The administration of intravenous immunoglobulins (IVIg) **69** is an established treatment in patients with immune deficiencies and other autoimmune mediated diseases. In addition, IVIg was shown to be useful in treatment of several disorders **3** caused by deterioration of the cellular immune system. **46** It proved to be effective in preventing hyperacute rejection in highly sensitized kidney and heart transplants. In the liver transplant setting, the administration of specific Ig against hepatitis B virus is current standard in post-LT antiviral prophylaxis.

45 The mechanisms of action of IVIg are complex and not fully understood. However, there is increasing experimental and clinical evidence that IVIg has an immuno-balancing impact by a combination of immuno-supporting and immuno-suppressive properties. It may be suggested that, especially

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