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ESPS Manuscript NO: 17215

Manuscript Type: Original Article

*Retrospective Study*

Role of steroid maintenance in sensitized kidney transplant recipients

Kalathil K Sureshkumar, Richard J Marcus, Bhavna Chopra

**Abstract**

**AIM:** Sensitized kidney transplant recipients are generally kept on chronic steroid maintenance (CSM). We aimed to evaluate whether there is a threshold sensitization level beyond which benefits of CSM emerge.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS:** Using Organ Procurement and Transplant Network (OPTN)/United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS) database, we compared the adjusted graft and patient survivals for CSM vs. early steroid withdrawal (ESW) among patients who underwent deceased-donor kidney (DDK) transplantation from 2000 to 2008 who were stratified by peak-panel reactive antibody (peak-PRA) titers (0-30%, 31-60% and >60%). All patients received perioperative induction therapy and maintenance immunosuppression based on calcineurin inhibitor (CNI) and mycophenolate mofetil (MMF).

**RESULTS:** The study included 42,851 patients. In the 0-30% peak-PRA class, adjusted

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