

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

June 5, 2015



Dear editor,

Thank you considering the manuscript titled “Role of Steroid Maintenance in Sensitized Kidney Transplant Recipients” for consideration to publish in World Journal of Transplantation. We have now revised the manuscript based on the suggestions from the reviewers. Changes are marked in red in the revised manuscript. Response to reviewers’ comments is as shown below:

Reviewer 02618391

Major concerns:

1. The authors didn’t indicate that if there are any risks or side effects for early withdrawal of steroid maintenance.

Response: The potential concern with early steroid withdrawal is the increased risk for acute rejection which can adversely impact graft outcomes. This is now added in the introduction (page 5, first paragraph, sentence 4)

2. The conclusion is purely based on the data analysis, a future clinical trial is needed to support the findings

Response: We agree with the statement. This is already mentioned in the manuscript (last sentence under core tip, page 4 and last sentence under discussion, page 13).

3. In figure 1, bar graph, there are no error bars and p values.

Response: Intent of figure 1 is to show the trend in the use of induction agents across PRA groups without doing any statistical comparisons. Hence there are no p-values attached.

4. The figure legends are too simple; they should provide enough information for the readers to understand the figure without reading through the manuscript.

5. **Response:** We now summarized the important findings of each figure in the legend (see page 20).

Minor concerns:

1. The “Steroid” is big family of drugs; the authors should indicate which specific drug(s) were used in the study.

Response: This is a national registry analysis. Prednisone is generally the steroid used for maintenance therapy. This is now mentioned under methods section (page 6, sentence 3).

2. There are some abbreviations (didn't give the full name).

Response: Abbreviations are all expanded now.

3. There are few misspellings and grammar errors.

Response: We carefully read through the manuscript and corrected spelling/grammar errors.

Reviewer 00503203

The present study evaluated the probable threshold levels of sensitization at which there a benefit with maintenance of steroids in deceased-donor kidney transplant recipients. The study is very well written, the results are clearly presented and the discussion and limitations of the study adequately addressed.

Response: The reviewer did not suggest any changes.

Looking forward to hear from you

Sincerely



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