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Abstract

PREVALENCE AND DETERMINANTS OF NON-ADHERENCE TO IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE DRUGS IN RENAL TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS (PADONA)

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Non-adherence to immunosuppressive drugs after renal transplantation is associated with poor clinical and economic outcomes. Understanding factors associated with non-adherence is a first step towards developing adherence-enhancing interventions. A number of correlates of non-adherence are known, but their channels and interactions are not yet clear. Furthermore, adherence research in transplantation lacks theory-driven approaches.

This study investigates the prevalence of self-reported non-adherence to immunosuppressive drugs and explores the association of non-adherence and several factors derived from the integrated model of behaviour prediction - a most recent behavioural model.

This analytical descriptive cross-sectional study will be conducted at the outpatient clinic for Nephrology of the University Hospital Zurich in Switzerland from November 2007 to February 2008 and will include 150 renal transplant recipients who received their first renal transplant between one and five years ago. Background variables and adherence to immunosuppressive drugs will be assessed by a structured interview using the "Basel Assessment of Compliance with Immunosuppressive Medication Scale" (BAASIS) and the “BAASIS Visual Analogue Scale” (VAS BAASIS). Secondly, factors influencing adherence will be assessed by the newly developed “Immunosuppressive Medication Belief Questionnaire”, and self-reported adherence will be assessed by the “Immunosuppressive Therapy Adherence Instrument” (ITAS). Clinical data will be retrieved from the medical chart. Collateral reports regarding the patients’ adherence to immunosuppressive drugs will be collected from two members of the transplant team.

Regression analysis will be used to explore the association between adherence as an outcome variable and factors derived from the integrated model of behaviour prediction. Secondly, a path analytic model will be applied, using all variables stemming from the integrated model of behaviour prediction.

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