

Transplantation in Asia II - Update in Organ Transplantation in South Asia

Update in organ transplantation in Philippines

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The biggest impact in organ transplantation in the Philippines was the Covid-19 global pandemic that brought healthcare to its knees. All over the world, healthcare resources were challenged and transplantation was dealt a hefty blow. Organ transplantation and deceased organ donor procurement were halted for a few months as hospitals were reconfigured to accept patients with this highly infectious disease and infrastructure had to be retrofitted. Strict lockdowns led to huge delays in both potential recipient and donor work-up.

We found that as we severely limited transplantation, our patients were dying from covid-19, contributed to by their continuous exposure in hemodialysis units and to HCWs. Thus we decided to re-open our transplant program fully.

As we learned more about how to deal with this disease, and virus-specific medications and vaccinations became available, we became more confident in resuming transplantation, and back to using strong induction biologics.

Guidelines were developed on how to manage covid-19 in transplant patients and when to safely transplant patients who had covid-19.

Now that we are all back to the NEW normal, our transplant census has regained momentum 3 years after covid-19, even surpassing our pre-covid stats. We review our excellent long-term kidney transplant outcomes for both standard and highly sensitized recipients, majority from living donors. We also highlight winning strategies to increase transplantation from deceased organ donors.