

Keynote Lecture II

Disparity of transplantation in Asia

Maggie MA

Transplantation in Asia has made significant progress in past few decades. Many Asian transplant centres have been at the vanguard of various advances in organ transplant such as living liver transplantation, ABO-incompatible kidney transplantation and paired kidney exchange. More and more Asian countries have established legal and regulatory frameworks that govern organ donation and transplant activities, with the aim to ensure transparency, ethical practice and improved quality of care. Yet, deceased organ donation rate remains low and lags the growth of end stage organ failure population. Transplant services are overwhelmingly dependent on living donors in many Asian Countries. Differential in access to transplant and outcomes still exist in the region. Disparities in transplantation span a wide spectrum. They could be categorized according to patient's demographic, socioeconomic status, and geopolitical factors. Transplant community needs to be vigilant to these disparities and their impact to access to transplant and outcome of the patients. Further research and knowledge exchange to identify and quantify these disparities, especially between countries at different level of socioeconomic development, would be an important first step to advocate growth of transplantation in Asia while ensuring ethical practice of transplantation.