Renal Transplant Pathology

Paul F Shanley MD January 2010

What are the non-surgical causes of renal failure in a patient with a kidney transplant?

1. Allograft rejection Classification by clinical course (timing) and by immunologic mechanisms

	Cellular rejection	Humoral rejection
	(T cell mediated immunity)	(Ab \rightarrow C' \rightarrow polys \rightarrow vasc damage)
Hyperacute rejection		Acute thrombotic microangiopathy
(Preformed antibodies		
minutes to hours)		Renal infarction
Acute rejection	Interstitial nephritis	Necrotizing arteritis
(days to months)	Lymphocytic tubulitis (CD8+ T cells)	
	Delayed hypersensitivity	Acute thrombotic microangiopathy
	(CD4+ T cells and macrophages)	
		Peritubular capillaritis
	Endovasculitis (endotheliitis)	(complement C4d staining)
	Intimal CD8+ T cells	
		Renal infarction
	Acute glomerulitis	
Chronic rejection	Obliterative arterial intimal fibrosis	
(months to years)	Renal parenchymal ischemic atrophy and fibrosis	
	Chronic microangiopathy ("chronic transplant glomerulopathy")	

- 2. Calcineurin inhibitor toxicity
 - a. Vascular toxicity (vasoconstriction; thrombotic microangiopathy)
- 3. Ischemic/nephrotoxic acute tubular necrosis
- 4. Kidney infection
 - a. Opportunistic (Polyoma virus, Cytomegalovirus, Adenovirus)
 - b. Pyelonephritis
- 5. Recurrent disease ("Primary" FSGS; DDD; "Atypical" HUS; IgA; many others)
- 6. De novo diseases (Membranous glomerulopathy; Collapsing glomerulopathy; Anti-GBM in Alport's patients; others)

Urinary tract infection

- 1. Who gets UTI? What are the common microbes?
- 2. What are the clinical presentations of UTI?
 - Lower tract infection (urethritis and cystitis): Frequency dysuria syndrome
 - Upper tract infection (acute pyelonephritis, and intrarenal or perinephric abscesses): Systemic inflammatory response; CVA tenderness
- 3. What is the route of infection in acute pyelonephritis?
 - Ascending vs. hematogenous
- 4. What is "uncomplicated" UTI? ("Trauma"; P fimbriae; cranberry juice)
- 5. What are the mechanisms / predisposing factors in complicated UTI?
 - Anatomic abnormalities; stones or other obstruction; instrumentation; pregnancy; immunosuppression; kidney disease; diabetes
- 6. What is reflux nephropathy?
 - Incompetent vesicoureteral valve
 - "Big bang" hypothesis