

CARDIAC SURGERY AND HEART TRANSPLANT

P36 THE ELDEST HEART TRANSPLANTED PATIENT IN EUROPE: 36 YEARS SURVIVAL AND STILL GOING ON

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Development of endomyocardial biopsy for acute rejection monitoring in the early Seventies, and above all use of cyclosporine in the clinical practice starting from 1980, introduced the modern era of heart transplantation. Following the initial positive outcomes, the first Italian transplant was performed in Padua by V.Gallucci on November 15th 1985. This pioneering success was rapidly repeated in Pavia, where M.Viganò performed the second transplant on Novembre 17th. Recipient was 20 years old man, suffering from dilated cardiomyopathy, on urgent transplant list. Cardiac index was 1.38 l/min/m² and pulmonary vascular resistance 1.6 WU. Donor was a 14 years old boy died of brain injury. Total ischemic time was 125 minutes. Induction immunosuppression consisted of horse anti-lymphocyte immunoglobulins, whereas maintenance therapy included cyclosporine, azathioprine and steroids. Postoperative course was complicated by pericardial effusion and cholestatic jaundice. Later pulmonary aspergillosis occurred and due to the profound immunodepression was complicated by fungal localization at L2 vertebral body. The infection was treated with surgical removal of the secondary localization and amphotericin B administration. On December 6th severe acute rejection was found at biopsy and treated with i.v. steroid pulse. Length of ICU and hospital stay was 28 and 72 days, respectively. In 1998 HCV infection was detected and eradicated in 2017 with elbasvir/grazoprevir therapy. Complications of long term immunosuppressive treatment included dyslipidemia, myeloma and basal cell carcinoma. Due to long-term calcineurin inhibitors therapy progressive chronic renal failure occurred, leading to replacement therapy in 2015 and kidney transplantation in 2016. In 2015 the patient underwent percutaneous coronary intervention with stents implantation in two marginal branches and in the anterior descending artery in 2021. Everolimus was introduced to slow down progression of cardiac allograft vasculopathy. In 2020 he suffered from Covid-19, but the course of infection was uneventful being cough the only symptom. We report the eldest survivor after heart transplant in Europe. Our case demonstrates that despite early and long-term complications of immunosuppressive therapy, a careful and patient tailored management allowed an amazing outcome. Nowadays heart transplant remains the best treatment for end stage heart failure and allows to resume a nearly normal quality of life.