

**Approaches to the transplant  
Patients with AV access**





BJH • SLCH • WUSM

**TRANSPLANT**

*Gift of Life*

Surendra Shenoy MD., PhD.  
Barnes-Jewish Hospital  
Saint Louis  
Missouri

Washington University in St. Louis • School of Medicine

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**Disclosures**

Laboratory and clinical research support from industry for research related to transplant and vascular access

None of the research or non FDA approved products will be discussed in this presentation

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74 yr. old male dialysis start 2/03  
Failed AVG different provider  
AVF 2 stage used 1/04  
CAD kidney transplant 12/05  
Pain and redness over patent AVF  
Infected thrombus in AVF outflow  
Creatinine 2.1 BUN 38

1. Non-surgical management
2. Excision of AVF
3. **AVF salvage**
4. Interventional thrombolysis

Excision of infected thrombus  
Repair outflow vein  
Skin flap reconstruction

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**78 yr. old female transplanted on 8-8-13**  
H/O mild arm pain and shoulder discomfort. Worried about graft complications

P/H: AVG placed in 2-22-10 revised 2-27-10  
First thrombectomy 2-27-10, 20 angioplasties to keep it open till transplant on 8-13, No angioplasties since

Clinical eval: Evidence of chest and shoulder collaterals, No arm edema, Patent AV Graft  
Access flow volume 958ml/min (brachial artery)

- a. Ligate and excise the AVG
- b. Ligate AVG
- c. Angiography and venoplasty
- d. Counselling and no active intervention**

Reassurance, education about natural history of access behavior following transplant, information on to expect and when to call - No active intervention

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**78 yr. old female transplanted on 8-8-13**  
H/O mild arm pain and shoulder discomfort. Worried about graft complications

AV graft placed in 2-22-10 revised 2-27-10  
First thrombectomy 2-27-10

20 trips to VIR none are thrombectomies except the first one

**No access interventions following transplant 8-13**

Evidence of chest and shoulder collaterals  
No arm edema  
Patent AV Graft  
Access flow volume 958ml/min (brachial artery)

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**Approaches to the transplant patient with an AV access**

**Outline**

- Prevalence of the problem
- Transplantation rates in ESRD
- Transplant graft survival
- Natural history of AVA after transplant
- Utility of patent access in a transplant patient
- Recommendation
- Management options

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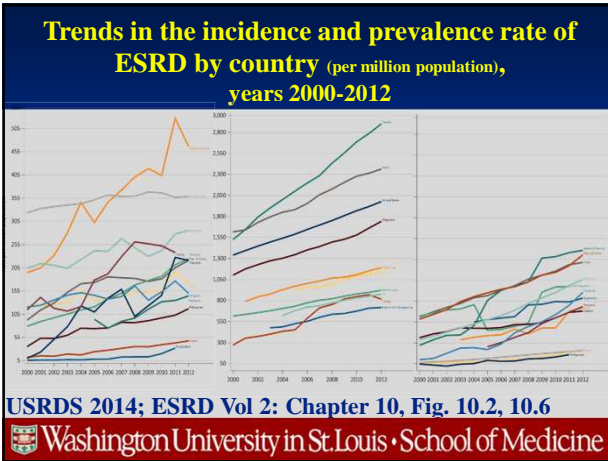
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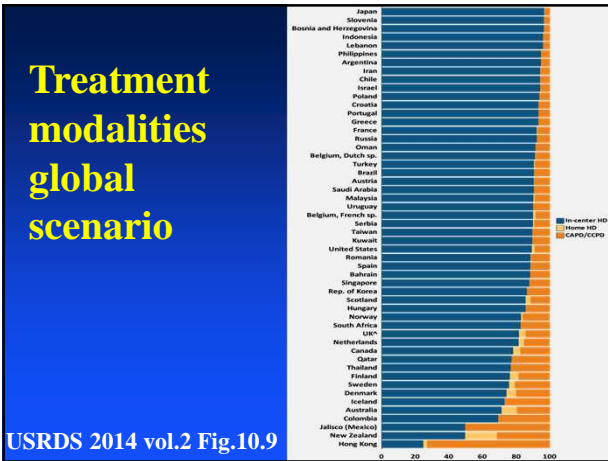
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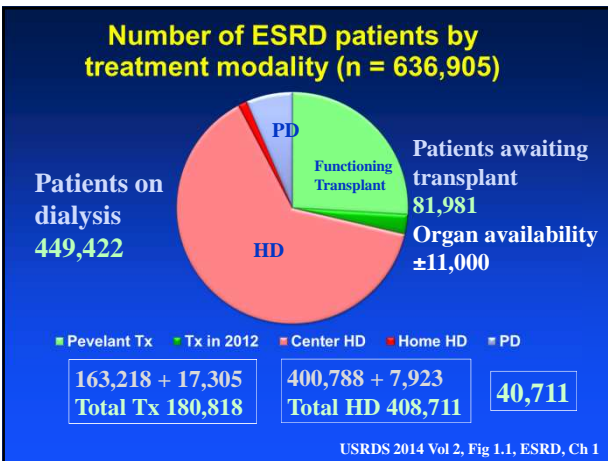
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### US kidney transplant survival

Region	Transplant Type	Years Post Transplant	Number Functioning / Alive	Survival Rate	95% Confidence Interval
U.S.	Primary Transplant	1 Year	36324	91.9	(91.6, 92.1)
U.S.	Repeat Transplant	1 Year	4702	89.7	(88.8, 90.5)
U.S.	Primary Transplant	3 Year	37060	82.4	(82.0, 82.7)
U.S.	Repeat Transplant	3 Year	4624	78.2	(77.1, 79.2)
U.S.	Primary Transplant	5 Year	27535	72.1	(71.6, 72.5)
U.S.	Repeat Transplant	5 Year	3365	66.9	(65.7, 68.2)

Nearly 6,000 patients are back on dialysis within 5 years

<http://ogtr.transplant.hrsa.gov/overview/AboutData.asp> on 10-1-15

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### Transplant wait list and outcome

2000 – 2500 patients return to dialysis within a year  
 4500-5000 return to dialysis within 3 years

Patient on kidney waiting list in US

Total patients	109,060
Primary transplant	93,819
Repeat transplant	15,241

14 -15% of patients on the wait list are awaiting retransplants

<http://ogtr.transplant.hrsa.gov/overview/LatestData.asp> Accessed 9/8/15

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### Natural history VA after transplant

	Good access	Access with problems
AVF	Stays open May present with complications	Presents with complications May thrombose
AVG	Often clots	Always clots
Catheter	Removed	Removed

### Causes for hypocoagulability in ESRD

- Uremic platelet dysfunction
- Anemia
- Uremic toxins
- HD induced
- Anticoagulants induced

Wattanakit K. JASN 08: 135

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### Advantages of a functioning access

- Access available in case of urgent need
  - delayed graft function
  - acute rejection
  - draft failure

### Disadvantage

- High output cardiac complications??
- Distal limb ischemia
- Non thrombotic access complications
- Cosmetic concern

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### Recommendations

Routine access monitoring in post-transplant phase  
Clinical exam & Ultra sound evaluation



Management decisions based on transplant kidney function and the expected outcome and magnitude of the intervention

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### Interventions to consider in post-transplant patients




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**Common presentations and questions**

Acute thrombosis presents with pain,  
swelling over AVF, redness  
and associated with all signs of inflammation

Most patients need reassurance and  
**symptomatic management**

antibiotics are rarely necessary  
short course of oral antibiotics causes no harm

**Excision of access is rarely indicated**

Advantage: outflow vein stays open beyond the  
entry of a tributary inflow for future use

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**Common presentations and questions**

Acute access thrombosis

Does the patient need anticoagulation?

Thrombosis often is a result of stasis

Stasis is a result of outflow stenosis

Stenotic outflow does not permit clot migration

Anticoagulation prevents clot propagation  
does not help clot dissolution

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**Summary**

Transplant provides efficient renal  
replacement for a finite period

HD remains is the mainstay  
for renal replacement therapy

Vascular access is the life line for an ESRD patient

Most AVG thrombose after transplantation

AVF with significant outflow problems thrombose after  
transplantation

Following transplant all access need monitoring

Decision to intervene on VA problems should be based on  
transplant function and results of intervention

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