Preface

Long-Term Care of the Abdominal Organ Transplant Recipient: Pearls for the Primary Care Provider

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Without the organ donor, there is no story, no hope, no transplant. But when there is an organ donor, life springs from death, sorrow turns to hope and a terrible loss becomes a gift.

—UNOS

It is our distinct privilege to be the guest editors of the May 2016 issue of Medical Clinics of North America entitled, “Medical Care for Kidney and Liver Transplant Recipients.” This is the first time that a Medical Clinics of North America issue has been dedicated to the field of transplantation, and the timing is appropriate as we have just passed the half-century mark since the first successful kidney transplant. Our issue is aimed at the health care providers in primary care and internal medicine who care for patients who have undergone liver or kidney transplantation. Caring for such patients may present formidable challenges; thus, it is hoped that our collection of review articles will provide a useful framework for the treating physician to provide the comprehensive care that is needed to address the medical needs of this patient population.

In the first article, we expound on the tremendous advancements in the field of transplantation as well as the key federal legislative changes that have shaped transplant since the 1950s. Drs Civan and Reddy next discuss the indications for liver transplant evaluation and the evolution from Child-Pugh to MELD (model for end-stage liver disease) for organ allocation. Drs Jim and Ghanta similarly address the topic of timing of the kidney transplant evaluation in patients with advanced chronic kidney disease. Drs Fenkel and Haleboua-DeMarzio discuss an algorithmic approach to allograft
dysfunction in the liver transplant recipient, while Drs Goldberg and colleagues provide an overview of acute and chronic allograft dysfunction in kidney transplant patients.

Dr Malat and Christine Culkin, DNP summarize the basics of immunosuppression and provide a primer for the primary care provider. The next five review articles each deal with specific long-term complications of solid organ transplantation. An understanding on how to manage these is imperative in order to afford our patients the best chance at long-term survival. Drs Munagala and Phancao’s review explores the realm of managing cardiovascular risk in the solid organ transplant recipient. Drs Molitch and colleagues discuss diabetes care, and Drs Watt and colleagues address risk for de novo malignancies and surveillance strategies. Drs Nel and Epstein review metabolic bone disease, while Drs Pereira and Greendyke address infectious complications and vaccinations.

The final two articles deal with other important aspects in the transplantation field. Dr Warburton and Dianne LaPointe Rudow, ANP discuss selection and postoperative care of the living kidney and liver donor, while Dr Constantinescu and colleagues delve into long-term functional recovery, quality of life, and fertility issues following solid organ transplantation.

In summary, readers of this issue of Medical Clinics of North America will find an informative and topical array of articles that should provide a solid foundation for primary care providers by which to care for the posttransplant recipient. We are deeply indebted to each of the authors and their respective coauthors for their truly invaluable contributions, and it has been our collective intent to provide a practical, stimulating resource that will be of value in your daily practice. We wish to extend our sincere gratitude to Jessica McCool and her editorial staff at Elsevier, particularly Alison Swety, for their assistance in compiling this issue. Finally, our love and heartfelt appreciation to our families, Allison, Lauren, and Aaron Sass, and Karen, Beckett, and Harper Doyle, for their support and encouragement in allowing us the time to devote many hours so that our labor of love could reach fruition.

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