

Introduction of Small Intestine Transplantation

Hsin-Lin Tsai

Attending physician, Division of Pediatric Surgery, Department of Surgery, Taipei Veterans General Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan

Intestinal transplantation is indicated for patients with irreversible intestinal failure, especially when life-threatening complications of parenteral nutrition occur. The surgical management of short bowel syndrome now includes intestinal and multivisceral transplantation, which has advanced and is now a sustainable option for the treatment of intestinal failure. Improvements in immunosuppressive therapies, surgical and medical management have all contributed to optimize this solid organ transplant as a means of supplanting the diseased native bowel and alimentary tract with a functional alternative.

The purpose of this presentation is to provide an update of recent advances in the areas of short bowel syndrome and small intestine transplantation including indications and eligibility for transplant, pre-Tx assessment and interventions, nutritional aspects of care, infection prevention, post-Tx monitoring.