

Pancreas transplant at Taipei Veterans General Hospital

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Type 1 diabetes eventually leads to nephropathy, neuropathy, retinopathy and angiopathy after 10 – 30 years. Currently, pancreas transplant is the treatment of choice in tight control of blood sugar for IDDM patients, and further to stabilize, prevent or even to reverse the diabetic complications. We will present our experience in pancreas transplant which was initiated on September 19, 2003. From September 2003 to May, 2015, there were 109 pancreas transplants performed for 106 patients at Taipei Veterans General Hospital, with 35 SPK, 11 PAK, 47 PTA and 16 PBK. Most (82.3%) of our pancreas transplants were for IDDM patients. The blood sugar usually returned to normal level within 5 hours (median) after revascularization of the pancreas grafts. The fasting blood sugar maintained within normal range thereafter throughout the whole clinical course in most cases. There were 2 surgical mortality. The technical success rate was 96.0%. Excluding the 4 cases with technique failure, overall 1-year pancreas graft survival is 98.5% and 5-year is 94.1%, with 100% 1-year for SPK, 97.1% 1-year for PTA, 100% 1-year for PAK and 100% 1-year for PBK.

In conclusion, pancreas transplant provided an ideal insulin-free solution for DM, especially IDDM. Pancreas transplant could be performed with similar successful rate irrespective of the type of pancreas transplant at our hospital.