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Ocular Findings in Renal Transplanted Patients

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Purpose: To describe the ocular findings in renal transplanted patients.

Methods: A retrospective chart review was conducted in the General Ambulatory of Ophthalmology of the Federal University of São Paulo including patients that underwent renal transplantation. It was accessed for descriptive analysis patient's age, gender, race, best corrected visual acuity (BCVA), biomicroscopy findings, intraocular pressure (IOP), fundus examination, time from renal transplantation, immunosuppressive drugs and systemic comorbidities.

Results: A total of 53 patients were included in the study from May 2006 to October 2007. The mean time from renal transplantation was about 60 months. The mean age was 49 years old. Twenty-five patients were males (47.2%) and 28 females (52.8%) with a male:female ratio of 0.89. The majority of patients were auto-classified as brown skinned 28 (52.8%), followed by 15 whites (28.3%) and 10 blacks (19.8%). The BCVA was 20/50 or better in 43 patients (81.1%). Twenty patients (37.7%) had cataract and the most common types were posterior sub capsular (23.3%) and nuclear cataract (23.3%). The IOP was 14.66(mean SD +/- 4.20). The diagnosis of glaucoma was confirmed in eight patients (15.1%). Forty-six patients (86.8%) presented systemic hypertension and fourteen (26.4%) had diabetes. All of them have used prednisone as an immunosuppressive agent. Thirty patients (56.6%) had abnormal fundus findings, generally associated with diabetes and hypertension. We also found one case of acute retinal necrosis.

Conclusions: Immunosuppressive treatment can be considered the cause of ocular complications like cataract and glaucoma. Transplanted patients with others systemic comorbidities like diabetes and hypertension may have a worst visual prognosis. Routines ophthalmology exams are important to detect ocular alterations in this population.