

survival, a finding which came as a surprise at a time when transfusion was considered a contraindication for kidney graft candidates.

Are we not forgetting the pioneers?

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References

1. G. Opelz, D. P. S. Sengar, M. R. Mickey, P. I. Terasaki, *Transplant. Proc.* 5, 253 (1973); G. Opelz and P. I. Terasaki, *Lancet* 1974-II, 696 (1974).

With respect to Marx's article of 8 August, it should be noted that there is still isolated disagreement as to the beneficial effect of transfusion before transplant on survival of kidney grafts from cadaver donors. An analysis (1) of the transfusion effect on 514 transplants performed at seven centers in Illinois demonstrates that recipients who were given transfusions before transplant experienced fewer early graft failures than those who were not. However, the Illinois study also demonstrated an increase in late graft failure in recipients who were given such transfusions, leading to a 2- to 7-year cumulative graft survival that was not different in recipients who received transfusions before transplant and those who did not.

In our own small transplant series from cadaver donors (82), we have not been able to discern any beneficial effect of transfusion before transplant after 1 or 4 years of follow-up (among recipients who were given such transfusions, graft survival after 1 year was 75 percent and after 4 years, 53 percent; among recipients who were not, it was 70 percent and 50 percent, respectively). We certainly do not find the data in favor of transfusion before transplant "overwhelming." We electively give transfusions to all patients during transplant operations but find no justification for deliberately giving transfusions before a transplant.

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References

1. O. M. Jonasson and M. F. Mozes, personal communication.

Erratum: In the report by R. Ganapathy (22 Aug., p. 921), Pd should have been 2 instead of 20 on line 2 in the middle column of p. 922, and Au should have been 3×10^{-2} instead of 3×10^{-1} on line 6 in the same column.

Erratum: In the article by R. Hekiniian *et al.* (28 Mar., p. 1433), in line 3 of the caption for Fig. 7 (p. 1440), "Fe-rich clay-like material" should have read "Fe-bearing opaline material."

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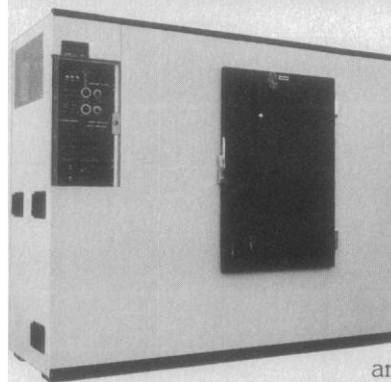
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