

# COVID-19 infection in kidney transplant recipients

SARS-CoV-2 a virus similar to SARS and MERS is causing a pandemic. We report 7 cases of COVID 19 in kidney transplant recipients from South London , UK

- All presented with fever & respiratory symptoms
- 2 patients were within 3 months of transplant
- Most treated with supportive care and reduced immunosuppression
- 4 needed ITU admission, 1 died
- High D dimer, ferritin, troponin levels and lymphopenia are seen in severe cases, are likely to be of prognostic value
- Extra pulmonary involvement contributes to mortality

Case	Transplant Date	Diabetes	Immuno suppression	Outcome
 48y	1989		Pred,AZA	Home
 67y	03/19	Diabetes	Pred,Tac,MMF	ITU, died
 54y	12/19	Diabetes	Pred,Tac,MMF	ITU
 65y	08/18		Pred,Tac,MMF	ITU, ward
 69y	02/20	Diabetes	Pred,Tac,MMF	ITU, ward
 54y	05/13		Tac,MMF	Home
 45y	09/17		Pred,Tac,Aza	Ward



Chest Xray for case 5

## CONCLUSION:

COVID 19 infection in kidney transplant patients can cause severe illness, requiring ITU admission with high rate of AKI

Prompt reduction in immunosuppression is required in severe cases

Older and diabetic patients may be at higher risk

# Early experience of COVID -19 infection in kidney transplant patients - Italian experience\*

\*Single center observational study of the clinical characteristics and short-term outcome of 20 kidney transplant patients admitted for SARS-CoV2 pneumonia

## Population

20 kidney transplant patients admitted for SARS-CoV2 pneumonia

Median follow-up, 7 days

Transplant age	13 years
Immunosuppression	
CNIs	19/20 (95%)
MMF	14/20 (70%)
Glucocorticoids	13/20 (65%)
mTORi	2/20 (10%)

## Management

Immunosuppression withdrawn

Commencement of:  
Methylprednisolone 16 mg  
Hydroxychloroquine (200 mg bid, to be reduced if eGFR<30ml/min): 19/20  
Lopinavir/Ritonavir (200/50 mg 2 tabs bid): 15/19  
Darunavir + Ritonavir (800+150 mg/daily) 4/19

13/15 (87%): Chest X-ray worsening

11/13 (85%): escalation of oxygen supplemental therapy



Dexamethasone in 11, Tocilizumab in 6 patients

## Outcome

4/20 ICU Care  
6/20 AKI  
5/20 Deaths

## CONCLUSION:

In this limited cohort of long-term kidney transplant patients, SARS-CoV-2 induced pneumonia is characterized by high risk of progression and significant mortality