Never events and hospital-acquired conditions after kidney transplant

Linda J. Chen, MD; Zhobin Moghadamyeghaneh, MD; Mahmoud Alameddine, MD; Anupam K. Gupta MD; George W. Burke, MD; Gaetano Ciancio, MD

Department of Surgery, Division of Transplant Surgery, Jackson Memorial Hospital/University of Miami, Miami, FL, United States

Dr. Moghadamyeghaneh had full access to all of the data in the study and takes responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis.

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Abstract

Introduction: Never events (NE) and hospital-acquired conditions (HAC) after surgery have been designated as quality metrics in healthcare by the centres for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Methods: The Nationwide Inpatient Sample (NIS) database 2002–2012 was used to identify patients underwent kidney transplant. Multivariate analysis using logistic regression was used to identify outcomes and risk factors of HAC and NE after transplantation; however, we were limited by using a retrospective database missing some important variables specified for the kidney transplant, such as some operative factors, donor factors, and cold and warm ischemia times.

Results: Among 35 058 patients who underwent kidney transplant, there were 11 NEs, all of which were due to retained foreign bodies. Among HAC after surgery, falling was the most common (44.9%), followed by poor glycemic control (21.7%), vascular catheter-associated infection (21%), and catheter-associated urinary tract infection (8%). HAC and NE after surgery lead to a significant increase in mortality (adjusted odds ratio [AOR] 2.49; p=0.04), hospitalization length (13 vs. 7 days; p<0.01), and total hospital charges (\$231 801 vs. \$146 717; p<0.01). A significantly higher risk of HAC or NE was seen for patients who had more loss of function before surgey (AOR 3.25; p<0.01) and patients expected to have higher postoperative mortality before operation (AOR 1.62; p=0.03).

Conclusions: Despite the limitations of the study, we found HAC and NE significantly increase mortality, hospitalization length, and total hospital charges of kidney transplant patients. Quality improvement initiatives should target HAC and NE in order to successfully reduce or prevent these events.

Introduction

The quality and safety of patient care in hospitals are important aims of National Quality Forum (NQF) in the US 1,2 . Never Event (NE) and Hospital Acquired Conditions (HAC) as adverse serious events that are largely preventable are reliable measurements of the quality and safety of patient care 1,2 . NE and HACs also have a significant financial impact on the US healthcare system 3 . It has been estimated that payments for surgical NE amounted to over \$1.3 billion during $1990-2010^4$. Eliminating surgical NEs is necessary to limit harm to patients 4 . Understanding the impact and frequency of these conditions can help to design the best preventative strategies.

NE was defined by National Quality Forum (NQF) in 2006 which includes 28 reportable events in healthcare ². The list includes obvious unacceptable errors. However, not all the events are indicative of obvious negligence ². A goal of quality improvement is to reduction of never events to zero. In this line, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) adopted the non-reimbursement policy for some of the events with the name of "non-reimbursable serious hospital-acquired conditions" in order to motivate hospitals to accelerate improvement of patient safety ². Investigating patient characteristics and operative factors with the events may help improve current prevention strategies. This study using a nationwide database aims to investigate predictors and outcomes of NE and HAC after kidney transplantation using appropriate events for the kidney transplant procedure according to both NQF and CMS lists.

Methods

An analysis of the nationwide inpatient sample (NIS) databaseduring 2002 -2012 was used in this study. NIS is an inpatient care database according to hospital discharge data in the USA acquired by the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, Maryland. It is an annually compiled database which consists of approximately 8 million inpatient stays from approximately 1000 hospitals each year ⁵. The informed consent is obtained from individual patients within the individual hospitals' patient consent forms by NIS. For the purposes of this study, NIS was queried using the Ninth Revision of the International Classification of Disease (ICD-9-CM) procedure code of 55.69 to identify the cases who underwent kidney transplantation. ICD-9 diagnosis codes which were reported in principal diagnosis of patients were also used to identify relevant diagnoses of patients. This study investigated Never Events and Hospital Acquired Conditions (HAC) after kidney transplantation using the ICD-9 diagnosis codes which were reported as the second to 25th diagnosis of patients in the database. Details of the codes which were used to identify NE and

HAC were reported in Table 1. The definition of complications (NE and HAC) were according to ICD-9 diagnosis codes which is available online ⁶.

Patient variables include demographic data (age, sex, and race), patient diagnosis, comorbidities (such as hypertension, coagulopathy, and diabetes mellitus), hospitalization length, total hospital charges, and admission type (elective vs. non-elective). Patients loss of function before surgery and risk of mortality (mild, moderate, major, and extreme) were according to the classification of the NIS database which is available on www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov ⁵. The primary end points were rates of NE and HAC after kidney transplantation. Secondary end points were predictors and outcomes of NE and HAC after kidney transplantation. Risk adjusted analysis was performed to investigate predictors and outcomes of NE and HAC. Statistical Analysis

Data was analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software, Version 22 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL) . The main analysis was multivariate analysis using logistic regression. The associations of NE and HAC with mortality and morbidity of patients were examined using a multivariable logistic regression model. We included all the variables of the study as covariates in the model. The estimated adjusted odds ratio (AOR) with a 95% confidence interval was calculated for each correlation. Statistical hypotheses were tested using P < 0.05 as the level of statistical significance.

Results

We sampled 35,058 patients who underwent kidney transplant during 2002-2012 according to the NIS database. Of these 60.2% were male. The median age of patient was 50 years. Also, the majority of patients were Caucasian (53.8%). Deficiency anemia (41.2%) and fluid and electrolyte disorders (31.8%) were the most common reported comorbid conditions of patients. The median hospitalization length of patients was 6 days. The most common reported reasons of renal failure as well as need to kidney transplant were hypertension (42%) and diabetes (34.7%). Demographics and clinical characteristics of patients are shown in Table 2.

Among patients who underwent kidney transplant 11 patients (0.03%) had Never Events and all of the events were due to retained foreign bodies. Overall, 138 patients had postoperative HAC. Of which falling was the most common event (44.9%) followed by poor glycemic control (21.7%), vascular catheter-associated infection (21%), catheter-associated urinary tract infection (8%), stages III & IV pressure ulcers (2.9%), and ABO incompatible blood transfusion (2.2%) (Figure 1).

The mortality and morbidity of patients who underwent kidney transplantation were 0.5% and 24.3% respectively. Patients with HAC or NE had significantly higher mortality (1.4% vs. 0.5%, P=0.04) and morbidity (45.6% vs. 24.2%, P<0.01). HAC and NE after surgery were significantly associated with an increased mean length of stay (13 days vs. 7 days, P<0.01), and hospital charges of patients (\$231801vs. \$\$146717, P<0.01). Also, patients with NE or HAC had a higher risk of unplanned reoperation (AOR: 1.92, P=0.04), prolonged ileus (AOR: 2.28,

P<0.01), pneumonia (AOR: 3.31, P<0.01), acute myocardial infarction (AOR: 2.72, P<0.01), and respiratory failure (AOR: 3.69, P<0.01) (Table 3).

Risk adjusted analysis of factors associated with postoperative NE and HAC were reported in Table 4. A significantly higher risk of HAC or NE events was seen for patients who had a severe disease before surgery (AOR: 3.25, P<0.01) and patients who were expected to have more loss of function before surgey (AOR: 1.62, P=0.03). When investigating patients who had catheter related urinary tract infection, factors such as age (AOR: 0.96, CI: 0.92-0.99, P=0.04), female gender (AOR: 15.48, CI: 1.92-124.41, P=0.01), and severity of loss of function before surgey (AOR: 9.70, CI: 1.01-94.88, P=0.04) were significantly associated with catheter related urinary tract infection. Also, severity of loss of function before surgey was significantly associated with falling (AOR: 3.14, CI:1.48-6.67, P<0.01), retained foreign body (AOR: 7.58, CI: 1.24-46.28, P=0.02), and vascular catheter-associated infection (AOR: 6.82, CI: 1.22-38.05, P=0.02). Poor glycemic control was significantly associated with patient's age (AOR: 0.94, CI: 0.91-0.98, P<0.01).

Discussion

This study found a significant increase in mortality, morbidity, hospitalization length, and total hospital charges of patients with never events and hospital acquired conditions after kidney transplant. Also, the risks of other postoperative complications such as prolonged ileus, pneumonia, acute myocardial infarction, and respiratory failure increase in presense of NE and HAC. We reinforce the literatures reports on the severity effect of NE and HAC events on outcomes of patient as well as the significant increase in total hospital charges related to the events ⁷⁻⁹.

Our study results show the severity of loss of function before surgey is a reliable factor to find high risk patients for post operative NE and HAC (Table 4). We found the risk of NE and HAC for patients with major or extreme loss of function before surgey is more than three times compared to patients with minor or moderate loss of function before surgery. Patient characteristics has been reported as an important predictor of the occurrence of never event by literature ¹⁰. Although preventive sterategies should be done for all surgical patients, some high risk patients may benefit from frequent assess to decrease the risk of never events during hospitalization. For example, creating a mandatory check list includig practical methods in prevention of NE and HAC that should be filled frequently during hospitalization by the responsible surgeon may be usefull in high risk patients ².

We found a significant association between catheter related urinary tract infection and age, female gender, and severity of loss of function before surgey which is in line with literaure reports ^{11,12}. However, we could not evaluate correlation between urinary stent and length of using urinary catheter and urinay tract infection. It is estimated that up to 69% of catheter related urinary tract infection can be prevented using appropriate infection prevention strategies such as the removal of the catheter as soon as possible or avoidance of its use ¹²⁻¹⁴. Considering 38% of physicians were not aware of the status of urinary catheter use for their patients ^{12,15}, reminder

systems including face-to-face reminders involving staff nurses and virtual reminders involving the use of electronic devices may help decrease the risk of catheter related urinary tract infection ¹².

Our study results show falling is the most common preventable HAC in kidney transplant patients. The overall reported rate of fall after generl surgery procedures is 1.6% in literature ¹⁶. We found 0.2% for the rate of post operative fall for kidney transplant patients which is lower than the general surgery procedures. Although the fall seems like a simple event, it represents a failure of multiple physiological systems and also a marker for increased perioperative mortality and morbidity and postoperative delirium in literatures ¹⁶⁻¹⁹. Recognition of fall risk factors and identifying high risk patients for fall will help design postoperative fall prevention programs. Factors such as older age, functional dependence, and lower albumin leve have been reported to be associated with fall in literature ¹⁶. We also found a higher risk of fall for patients who had more loss of function before surgey. Interestingly 66% of patients who fell had diabetes as a result of kiney failure. Diabetes with peripheral neuropathy can increase chance of fall after surgery. Minimizing polypharmacy and avoiding individual medications which increase the risk of delirium, increasing the presence of family members or sitters at the bedside, minimizing environmental hazards, and occupational and physical therapy training in high-risk patients especialy in diabetetic patients with peripheral neuropathy may decrease the risk of fall in high risk patients.

We found vascular catheter-associated infection as the third most common HAC after kidney transplant. It has been estimated that there are 15 million central vascular catheter days for patients hospitalized at intensive care units each year in the US ^{20,21}. There are multiple studies that addressed catheter-related bloodstream infections in literature ^{20,21}. Factors such as the duration of catheterization and use of a semipermeable transparent dressing were reported to be independently associated with positive cultures of catheters in literature ²². We found a significantly higher risk of vascular catheter-associated infection in patients who had more loss of function before surgey. Following guidelines for the prevention of intravascular catheter-related infections can decrease the risk of vascular catheter-associated infection in surgical patients ²¹. Some evidence-based recommendations include: educating and designating trained healthcare personnel and assessing their knowledge and adherence to guidelines, correcting selection of catheters and sites, hand hygiene and aseptic techniques, maximal sterile barrier precautions, and appropriate catheter site dressing regimens ²¹.

This study results show poor glycemic control is the second most common HAC in kidney transplant patient and it is reversly associated with patient's age. Perioperative hyperglycemia has been reported as an adverse outcome predictor in surgical patients in literature even in non-diabetic patients $^{23,24}.$ It has been reported that postoperative blood glucose greater than 140 mg/dL is present in as many as 40% of noncardiac surgery patients, and 25% of those patients have a blood glucose level greater than 180 mg/dL 24 . Checking the blood glucose in the morning of surgery in patients with and without a history of diabetes is recommended in

literature ²³. The blood glucose levels of 150 mg/dl has been reported as the cut off point for increasing risks of mortality, morbidity, and hospitalization length in literature, particularly in those who did not have a prior diagnosis of diabetes ²⁴. Perioperative immunosupresive medications such as corticosteroids and prograf also can increase blood sugar of transplanted patients and make control of blood sugar in such patients difficult. However, further studies are indicated to determine whether strict perioperative blood glucose management improves clinical outcomes in transplanted patients.

Study limitations

There are limitations to the study. Detection of adverse events in NIS database is limited to the ICD-9-CM coding system and coding error is possible ^{25,26}. Despite our attempts to adjust for all possible confounders, we could not measure some variables that contribute to patient outcomes such as warm and cold ischemia time, presence of urinary stent, effects of perioperative immunosupresive medications, and length of using urinary catheter. The NIS dataset misses some potentially important explanatory variables such as anatomic or laboratory data. Also, The NIS has no ability to follow patient outcomes longitudinally. Despite these limitations, the advantage of using the NIS database is the broad national geographic representation across all regions of the country and also the possibility of reporting weighted results as national outcomes.

Conclusion

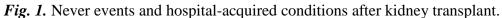
HAC and NE after kidney transplantation are uncommon. However, they are associated with a significant increase in mortality, morbidity, hospitalization length, hospital charges, and reoperation of patients. Quality improvement initiatives should target HAC and NE in order to successfully reduce or prevent these events. The severity of loss of function before surgey is a reliable factor to identify high risk patients for post operative NE and HAC. Falling is the most common preventable HAC in kidney transplant patients. The severity of loss of function before surgey is significantly associated with falling, retained foreign body, catheter related urinary tract infection, and vascular catheter-associated infection. The risks of poor glycemic control and catheter related urinary tract infection significantly increase in elderly. Following guideline's recommendations in prevention of HAC and NE may decrease the rates of NE and HAC in high risk patients.

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Figures and Tables



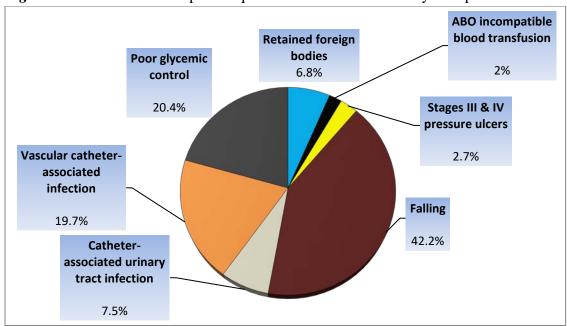


Table 1. Hospital-acquired conditions and never events identification codes				
Diagnosis	ICD-9 codes *			
Hospital-acquired conditions (HAC)				
Air Embolism	999.1			
Blood Incompatibility	999.60, 999.61, 999.62, 999.63, 999.69			
Pressure Ulcer Stages III & IV	707.23, 707.24			
Falls and Trauma	800-829 830-839 850-854 925-929 940-949 991-994			
Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract	996.64			
Infection (UTI)	990.04			
Vascular Catheter-Associated Infection	999.31, 999.32, 999.33			
Page Clygamia Control	250.10-250.13, 250.20-250.23, 251.0, 249.10-249.11,			
Poor Glycemic Control	249.20-249.21			
Never events				
Retained Foreign body	E871.0, E871.9, 998.4, 998.7			
Wrong operation on correct patient	E876.5			
Wrong operation intended for another	E876.6			
patient	E670.0			
Correct operation on wrong body	E876.7			
part/site	E0/0./			

Table 2. Demographics and clinical characteristics of patients underwent kidney transplant with or without never events and hospital acquired conditions **Patients with Patients without Variables** p NE *or HAC** **NE or HAC** Mean ± Standard Deviation 48±16 < 0.01 47±15 Age (year) Median (year) 50 50 ----Female 41.5% 39.8% 0.67 Sex White 65.9% 44.6% < 0.01 Black or African American 20.3% 18.3% 0.64 Hispanic 0.04 8.9% 12.8% Race Asian 0.8% 3.8% 0.97 4.1% 20.5% 0.04 Other or unknown Fluid and electrolyte 37.7% 0.12 31.8% disorders Coagulopathy 12.3% 7.1% 0.01 Deficiency anemia 41.2% 40.4% 0.84 Diabetes 47.6% 23.9% < 0.01 Liver disease 5.5% 3.1% 0.08 Weight loss 2.1% 1.2% 0.38 Comorbidity Hypertension 14.4% 10.8% 0.16 Chronic pulmonary disease 0.94 5.4% 5.6% 5.5% 0.34 Obesity 7.5% Congestive heart failure 5.4% 4.9% 0.74 Peripheral vascular 7.5% 4.8% 0.12 disorders Minor likelihood of dying 7.9% 32.5% < 0.01 Moderate likelihood of Preoperative 47.4% 46.7% < 0.01 expected dying mortality Major likelihood of dying 30.7% 17.8% < 0.01 Extreme likelihood of dying 14% 3.1% < 0.01 Minor loss of function *** 3.5% 15.7% < 0.01 Moderate loss of function 27.2% 46.6% < 0.01 Preoperative Major loss of function loss of function 45.6% 32.2% < 0.01 Extreme loss of function 5.5% 23.7% < 0.01 23.1% 42.1% Indication of Hypertension < 0.01

63.9%

34.6%

< 0.01

Diabetes Mellitus

kidney

transplant	Previous kidney transplant failure	5.4%	6.1%	0.72
	Polycystic kidney disease	1.4%	3.3%	0.19
	Lupus erythematous	0%	1.5%	0.13
	Other	6.1%	12.4%	0.09
Admission	Elective	54.4%	54.8%	0.92
Type	Non-elective	45.6%	45.2%	0.92
Hospitalization length	Mean ± Standard Deviation (day)	13±11	7±7	<0.01
	Median (day)	8	6	< 0.01
Total hospital	Mean ± Standard Deviation	\$231801±216093	\$146717±97759	< 0.01
charges	Median	156647	\$124184	< 0.01
Outcomes	Mortality	1.4%	0.5%	< 0.01
Outcomes	Overall Morbidity	45.6%	24.2%	< 0.01

Table 3. Risk adjusted analysis of postoperative complications of patients with or without never events and hospital acquired conditions					
never events and nospita	Patients	Patients	Adjusted	95%	
Complications	with NEor	without NE	odd	confidence	p
	HAC	or HAC	ratio	interval	
Mortality	1.4%	0.5%	2.49	1.01-10.31	0.04
Overall Morbidity*	45.6%	24.2%	2.44	1.74-3.42	< 0.01
Transplanted kidney	10.2%	8.2%	1.23	0.71-2.12	0.45
failure or rejection					
Renal vascular	2.7%	0.6%	3.83	1.38-10.64	0.01
complications		0.070	2.02		0.01
Wound disruption	3.4%	0.5%	5.74	2.28-14.41	< 0.01
Hemorrhagic	7.5%	5.2%	1.28	0.68-2.41	0.43
complications		3.270	1.20	0.06-2.41	0.43
Ureter complications	4.1%	3.4%	1.19	0.52-2.71	0.67
Unplanned reoperation	5.4%	2.2%	1.92	1.01-4.02	0.04
Prolonged Ileus	10.9%	4.7%	2.28	1.34-3.88	< 0.01
Urinary Tract Infection	15.6%	3.9%	4.03	2.54-6.41	< 0.01
Wound Infection	2.7%	0.8%	2.63	0.94-7.38	0.06
Pneumonia	4.1%	1.1%	3.31	1.43-7.67	< 0.01
Hospitalization > 30 Days	8.2%	1.1%	6.16	3.22-11.79	<0.01

Acute Myocardial	6.1%	2%	2.72	1.36-5.44	<0.01
Infarction		270	2.12	1.30-3.44	<0.01
Acute Respiratory	4.8%	1.1%	3.69	1.68-8.12	< 0.01
Failure		1.170	3.09	1.00-0.12	<0.01
Deep Vein Thrombosis	0%	0.3%	0.99	0.99-1	0.51

^{*}Includes: Transplanted kidney failure or rejection, renal vascular complications, wound disruption, hemorrhagic complications, ureter complications, unplanned reoperation, prolonged Ileus, urinary tract infection, unplanned reoperation, wound infection, pneumonia, hospitalization more than 30 Days, acute myocardial infarction, acute respiratory failure, deep vein thrombosis. HAC: hospital-acquired conditions; NE: never events.

hospital acquired conditions Variables		Adjusted	95% confidence	
		odds ratio	interval	p
Age	Age	0.98	0.97-0.99	0.03
Sex	Female	1.10	0.75-1.61	0.61
	Obesity	0.48	0.19-1.20	0.12
	Coagulopathy	0.76	0.38-1.44	0.45
Comorbidity	Hypertension	0.89	0.50-1.58	0.70
	Diabetes Mellitus	0.99	0.59-1.66	0.99
	Fluid and Electrolyte	0.78	0.52-1.18	0.24
	Abnormalities		0.32-1.16	
	Chronic Lung Disease	0.94	0.41-2.16	0.89
	Weight Loss	0.77	0.18-3.19	0.72
	Deficiency Anemia	0.89	0.60-1.32	0.57
	Congestive Heart Failure	0.50	0.20-1.26	0.14
	Peripheral Vascular Disorders	1.05	0.51-2.24	0.87
	Liver Disease	1.32	0.53-3.29	0.54
D .:	Low or moderate likelihood of	Reference	Reference	Reference
Preoperative	dying			
expected mortality	High or extreme high likelihood of	1.62	1.03-2.55	0.03
	dying		1.03-2.33	
Preoperative	Minor or moderate loss of function	Reference	Reference	Reference
loss of function	Major or extreme loss of function	3.25	1.95-5.41	< 0.01