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Title: Risk Factors for Post-Kidney Transplant Depression I Identify which Patients Need Closer Mental Health Assessment.

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It is well recognized that depression affects the well being of both the general population and, even more so, those with a chronic disease. This study was designed to evaluate the incidence and risk factors associated with a diagnosis of clinical depression in a kidney transplant (KTX) population. A retrospective cohort study was conducted using US Medicare patients, 1995-2001 (N=35,765). Depression was identified by Medicare claims (ICD-9-CM code 311.xx) during the first 3-years post-KTX. Relative risks were determined using Cox proportional hazards analysis. We also compared risk after KTX with risk on the waiting list for 46,106 Medicare patients. The cumulative incidence of depression was 4.7%, 6.9% and 8.8% at 12, 24 and 36 months after KTX. The cumulative incidence rates are similar to patients who remain on the KTX waiting list, with rates of 3.7%, 6.7% and 9.5% at 12, 24 and 36 months after starting dialysis. The adjusted relative risk (all P<0.05) for depression was 0.54 and 0.36 for patients of Black or Asian race respectively (ref=white), and 0.54 for patients of Hispanic ethnicity (ref=non-Hispanic). The adjusted RR was 0.59 for male patients, 1.50 for pre-KTX diabetes (ref=GN), 1.23 for patients who had been on dialysis for three or more years pre-KTX (ref= <1 yr), and 1.25 for patients with a BMI of 35.0 or greater (ref=BMI 18.5-24.9). Post-KTX depression may have serious consequences including reduced treatment compliance and persistence, altered health behavior, and, potentially, graft loss and patient return to dialysis. These data indicate that certain KTX patients are at increased risk for developing (or experiencing) depression over time. The ~9% cumulative incidence in the first 36-months post-KTX is likely to be an underestimate given the propensity to under-report mental health diagnoses, a particular issue in minority populations. Detection and treatment of depression is vital to optimize patient health outcome.