Solutions to Test Your Knowledge: Post Transplant Lymphoproliferative Disorder (PTLD)

1. In the OPTN database, which of the following risk factors were found to increase the risk for PTLD?
   A, B, and F. The use of anti-lymphocyte globulin, recipient EBV seronegativity and recipient CMV seronegativity were all found to be risk factors for PTLD. Donor EBV seropositivity did not achieve statistical significance as a risk factor for PTLD. The incidence of PTLD was found to be lower in African Americans and patients who received IL-2RA. Both ages less than 35 and over 65 were found to increase the risk for PTLD compared with the group aged 35-65.

2. Which of the above risk factors results in the highest relative risk for PTLD?
   B. Recipient EBV seronegative status carried 5 times the risk for PTLD (RR, 5.04; 95% CI, 1.19-1.94).

3. Which of the following is a possible explanation for the higher incidence of PTLD documented by Medicare claims as compared to the OPTN database?
   D. It is impossible to determine exactly why there was a higher incidence of PTLD documented by Medicare claims. All of the answers are possible explanations.

4. The Collaborative Study Group revealed a higher incidence of PTLD than the current study. This is most likely due to:
   C. The collaborative study group registry followed patients for 10 years post transplant while the current study followed patients out to 3 years (see editorial by Dr. Hricik).

5. When are the majority of PTLD cases diagnosed?
   A. The OPTN reported the PTLD incidence rate was 0.23 per 100 patient-years during the first year posttransplant, and decreased to 0.12 per 100 patient-years during years 2 and 3 posttransplant. This study did not did not follow patients after 3 years post transplantation.

6. Which of the following statements regarding graft survival after PTLD diagnosis is incorrect?
   C. Both death censored graft failure and mortality was higher for patients with PTLD as compared to matched controls.

7. Which of the following disorders would be considered a diagnosis of “PTLD”?
   All of the above answers are forms of PTLD. The term “posttransplant lymphoproliferative disorder” is used to reflect the wide spectrum of lymphoproliferative disorders seen after transplantation. Though EBV related B-cell lymphomas are thought of as the prototypic form of PTLD, any lymphoproliferative disease after transplantation may be characterized as PTLD.

References:
Kasiske et al, Lymphoproliferative Disorders After Adult Kidney Transplant: Epidemiology and Comparison of Registry Report With Claims-Based Diagnoses.