

# Early vs. late acute antibody mediated rejection among renal transplant recipients in terms of its response to rituximab therapy-single center experience

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## OBJECTIVES

Acute antibody-mediated rejection (ABMR) is a major cause of early kidney allograft dysfunction.

Recent studies indicate that ABMR is among the most important barriers to improving long-term outcomes.

There are no comparable trials concerning the use of rituximab among renal transplant recipients with ABMR. We aimed to compare early and late acute ABMR among renal transplant recipients in terms of its response to rituximab therapy.

## METHODS

1200 kidney transplant recipients performed in Hamed Al-Essa Organ Transplant Center of Kuwait over the last 10 years

103 developed ABMR (Banff 2007)

PP(1 volume X 10 sessions) + IVIG(1g/kg divided over 5 days)

Group 1 (n=27, early ABMR)

Group 2 (n=38, late ABMR)

Group 3 (n=20, early ABMR)

Group 4 (n=18, late ABMR)

Rituximab 375mg/m<sup>2</sup>

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Follow up for 24 months

## RESULTS

Demographic data of the studied patients

	Early ABMR with rituximab (n=27)	Late ABMR with Rituximab (n=38)	Early ABMR without rituximab (n=20)	Late ABMR without rituximab (n=18)	P value
Patient age (n years)	30.8±13.6	28.3±13.3	33.1±17	36.7±18	0.07
Patient sex (male/female)	10/17	15/23	7/13	9/9	0.84
Donor age (n years)	36.7±6	34±7.8	33.8±12.2	32.5±10.7	0.29
Donor sex (male/female)	19/8	26/12	14/7	12/6	0.96
Original kidney disease					
• Diabetic nephropathy	4	3	4	4	
• Hypertension	1	1	0	0	
• Glomerulonephritis	12	9	4	4	
• Obstructive	2	5	2	3	
• Idiopathic	8	20	8	9	0.30
Dialysis type					
• Preemptive	3	10	6	3	
• Hemodialysis	21	19	12	11	
• Peritoneal dialysis	2	7	2	4	0.28

Demographic data of the studied patients

	Early ABMR with rituximab (n=27)	Late ABMR with Rituximab (n=38)	Early ABMR without rituximab (n=20)	Late ABMR without rituximab (n=18)	P value
Donor type:					
• Live related	7	15	2	5	
• Live unrelated	12	13	7	8	
• Deceased	8	10	11	5	0.17
Early graft function:					
• Immediate graft function	12	31	10	13	
• Slow graft function	8	5	3	4	
• Delayed graft function	7	2	7	1	0.016

Demographic data of the studied patients

	Early ABMR with rituximab (n=27)	Late ABMR with Rituximab (n=38)	Early ABMR without rituximab (n=20)	Late ABMR without rituximab (n=18)	P value
Pre-transplant co-morbidities:					
• Anemias, non-anemic	75%	56.5%	73.3%	76.9%	0.48
• TB	18.8%	0%	0%	15.4%	0.06
• Diabetes mellitus	18.5%	13.5%	31.6%	22.2%	0.44
• Osteopenia	29.5%	27%	35%	38.9%	0.81
• Hypertension	91.7%	86.1%	70%	75%	0.21

Types of immunosuppression among different study groups

	Early ABMR with rituximab (n=27)	Late ABMR with Rituximab (n=38)	Early ABMR without rituximab (n=20)	Late ABMR without rituximab (n=18)	P value
Immunosuppression					
• Induction					
• Non	0	5	4	1	
• IL2 R blocker	10	13	2	6	
• Thymoglobulin	16	19	13	10	
• ATG	1	1	1	1	0.21

Types of immunosuppression among different study groups

	Early ABMR with rituximab (n=27)	Late ABMR with Rituximab (n=38)	Early ABMR without rituximab (n=20)	Late ABMR without rituximab (n=18)	P value
Immunosuppression					
• Maintenance					
• cyclosporine based	9	23	8	9	
• Tacrolimus based	16	14	10	8	
• CNI free	2	1	2	1	0.43

Post-transplant complications among different study groups (after ABMR management)

	Early ABMR with rituximab (n=27)	Late ABMR with Rituximab (n=38)	Early ABMR without rituximab (n=20)	Late ABMR without rituximab (n=18)	P value
Post-transplant complications:					
-NODAT	3	5	2	4	0.71
-Infections					
• CMV	3	2	2	1	0.45
• BK viremia	3	8	3	3	0.71
• BK nephropathy	1	0	1	0	0.53

Patient and graft outcomes in the studied groups

	Early ABMR with rituximab (n=27)	Late ABMR with Rituximab (n=38)	Early ABMR without rituximab (n=20)	Late ABMR without rituximab (n=18)	P value
Graft outcome					
• Functioning graft	24	26	13	9	
• Failed graft	2(8.3%)	11(42.3%)	7(53.8%)	9(50%)	0.024
Last graft function (cr.micromol/L)	201	289	316	318	0.08
Patient outcome					
• Living	24	33	17	14	
• Died	0	0	1	0	
• Lost follow up	2	3	2	4	0.52

## CONCLUSIONS

Early ABMR in renal transplant recipients had significantly better outcome when rituximab was added to the standard management.

