

EFFECT OF VITAMIN D REPLACEMENT ON ENDOTHELIAL FUNCTIONS IN RENAL TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS

ORS

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OBJECTIVES

Cardiovascular diseases are the most common cause of mortality in renal transplant recipients (1). Endothelial dysfunction, an early indicator of atherosclerosis, is frequently observed in hemodialysis patients. Although endothelial functions improve after renal transplantation (2), these patients still have worse endothelial functions compared to healthy subjects (3). Vitamin D deficiency is related to endothelial dysfunction in renal transplant recipients (4). Treatment of vitamin D deficiency improves endothelial functions in patients with chronic kidney disease. Aim of this study is to investigate the effect of vitamin D replacement on endothelial functions in renal transplant recipients with vitamin D deficiency.

METHODS

Renal transplant recipients who are regularly followed in Hacettepe University Nephrology Department and under treatment for vitamin D deficiency defined as serum 25 OH vitamin D <20 mcg/L were included in this study. Endothelial functions determined by brachial flow mediated vasodilatation were compared before and after three months of calcitriol treatment (0.5 mcg/day).

RESULTS

Forty renal transplant recipients (23 male, 17 female) were included in this study. Mean age was 41.7±11.0 years. Mean basal serum 25 OH vitamin D level was 10.7±4.5 mcg/L. Brachial flow mediated vasodilatation increased from 5.6±3.2% to 11.9±7.4% after calcitriol replacement (p<0.001).

CONCLUSIONS

Correcting vitamin D deficiency may improve endothelial functions in renal transplant recipients. The findings of this study should be confirmed in double blind randomized placebo controlled trials with larger sample size.

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