

E057

2-hour Educational Workshop

Multidrug-resistant bacteria and immunosuppression: emerging threats with limited therapeutic options

Organ transplantation as a salvage for patients with persistent infection due to multidrug-resistant organisms?

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Multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) are an emerging threat in solid organ transplantation (SOT). The management of these infections is complicated by the lack of antimicrobial agents available to treat these infections. Only a few new agents, especially for the treatment of MDR Gram-negative infections, are currently being evaluated in clinical trials. Due to the increased prevalence of MDROs and limited treatment options, as well as organ shortages, transplant candidacy and use of organs from donors with evidence of MDRO colonization and/or infection remain controversial. Pretransplant colonization has rarely been associated with poor posttransplant outcomes outside of lung transplantation. Thus, previous infection or colonization with MDROs, particularly MDR Gram-negative bacteria, remains a challenge to determining transplant candidacy. In an era of organ shortages, larger collaborative studies are needed to better understand the strategies associated with more favorable patient and graft survival. For now, transplant practitioners are encouraged to individualize decisions regarding transplant candidacy in the setting of prior infection or colonization with MDR Gram-negative bacteria, taking into consideration that MDR Gram-negative infections are associated with high mortality rates in SOT recipients.