

**Cardiovascular  
Complications in ESRD and  
Transplant:  
Special Patients with Special  
Hearts**

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Medical Director, Portland VA Kidney Transplant

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**Overview**

- ▶ Risk factors for coronary and peripheral vascular disease
- ▶ Special Considerations in the dialysis population
- ▶ Cardiovascular Evaluation of transplant recipients
- ▶ Transplant risk factors

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**Traditional cardiac risk factors**

- ▶ **Modifiable**
  - Dyslipidemia (elevated LDL, decreased HDL)
  - Tobacco smoking
  - Hypertension and Volume status
  - Diabetes mellitus / metabolic syndrome
  - Lack of physical activity
- ▶ **Nonmodifiable**
  - Advanced age
  - Male sex
  - Heredity (>44 y/o in men, >54 y/o in women)

**KIDNEY  
DISEASE?**

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# AGE

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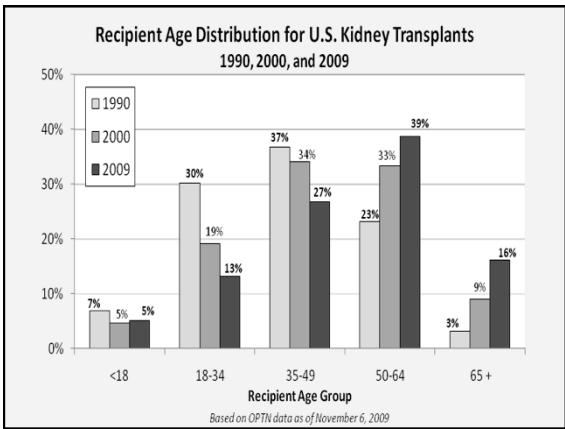
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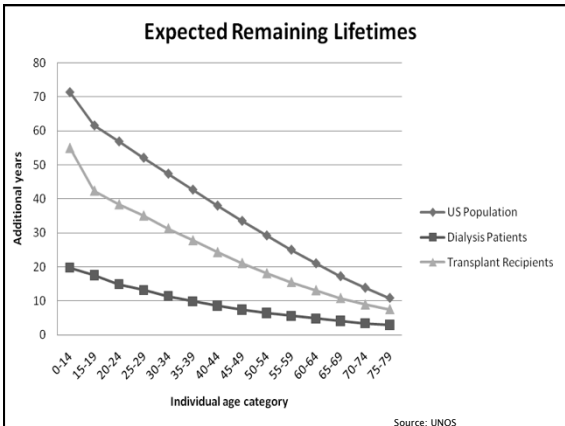
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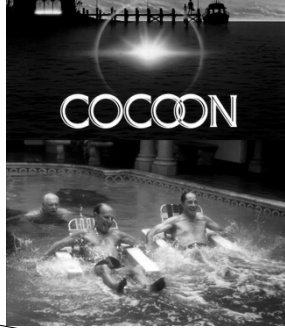
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### Kidney transplant in advanced age

- ▶ No true age cut off
- ▶ Consider comorbidities and functional status
  - Morphologic age vs. chronologic age
  - Frailty
  - Neuropsychosocial status relative to ability to administer adequate self-care



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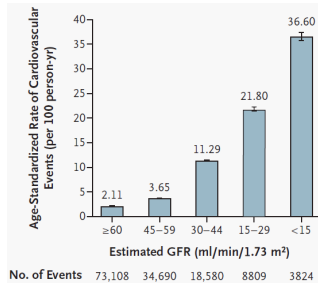
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Chronic Kidney Disease as a Risk Factor



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NEJM 2004;351:1296-305.

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### EVALUATION OF THE KIDNEY TRANSPLANT RECIPIENT

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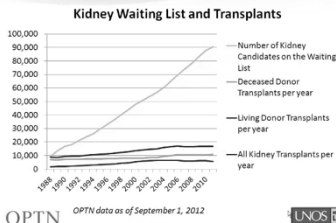
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## Indications for Renal Transplant

- ▶ ESRD on dialysis
- ▶ CKD with GFR < 20 ml/min

### The Growing Waiting List




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## Transplant Complications

- ▶ Surgical
  - Vascular compromise
  - Urinary leak/obstruction
  - Wound defect/infection
- ▶ Rejection
  - Hyperacute rejection
  - Acute cellular rejection
  - Antibody mediated
  - Chronic rejection
- ▶ Recurrent and de novo kidney disease
- ▶ Infections
  - UTI/Pneumonia
  - Wound infection
  - Donor derived
  - Opportunistic infections
    - CMV, BK, PCP, fungal, etc
- ▶ Malignancy
  - PTLD, skin cancer, et al.
- ▶ Drug toxicity
- ▶ Cardiovascular disease

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## Contraindications to transplant

- Active ischemia or severe cardiomyopathy
- Active infection
- Active malignancy
- High probability of peri-operative mortality
- Low life expectancy
- Anatomy that makes transplantation technically impossible
- Active drug use, alcoholism, or psychosis
- High potential for medical noncompliance

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**Conditions that Increase the Risks of Transplantation**

- Significant cardiac disease
- Significant pulmonary disease
- Significant gastrointestinal disease
- Severe vascular disease
- Advanced Age
- Obesity
- Significant potential for recurrent disease
- Psychosocial / Financial limitation leading to inadequate follow up care

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**Physician History**

- ▶ Cause of kidney disease
  - Biopsy
- ▶ ESRD management (dialysis prescription)
- ▶ Medical Comorbidities
- ▶ Prior abdominal or urologic surgeries
- ▶ Urine output
- ▶ Renal infections/UTIs
- ▶ Family Hx
  - Diabetes, kidney disease, h/o CVA if PCKD
- ▶ Sensitizing events (blood transfusion, pregnancy, prior transplant)
- ▶ History of viral infections (HSV, Chickenpox, zoster)
- ▶ Functional status

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**Physical Exam**

- ▶ Transplant specific focus
  - Cardiovascular
    - Carotid and abdominal bruits
    - Aortic disease
    - Femoral and pedal pulses
  - Diabetes: ulcers
  - Kidney size (PCKD)
  - GU exam
  - Functional status

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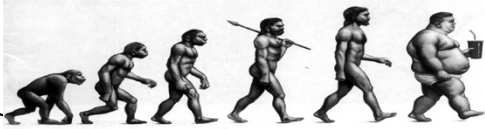
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## Obesity in Renal Transplant

- ▶ Obesity with increased risk for:
  - Graft loss
  - Delayed graft function
  - DVT
  - Wound dehiscence
  - Wound infection



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## Transplant Selection Conference



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## Transplant Selection Conference

- ▶ Members of transplant team present
  - Transplant Surgeons
  - Transplant Nephrologists
  - Nurse coordinators
  - Social worker
  - **Renal Transplant nutrition specialist**

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## Transplant Nutrition Specialist

- ▶ Assess current nutrition needs as the relate to ESRD and diabetes
- ▶ Educate patients on major macro, micro nutrients and recommended nutrient goals pre transplant.
- ▶ Educate patients on herbal supplements and relation to immunosuppression.
- ▶ Assessment of Frailty

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Journal of Gerontology: MEDICAL SCIENCES  
DOI: 10.1093/geronl/gmz001

Copyright © 2019 by The Gerontological Society of America

### Frailty in Older Adults: Evidence for a Phenotype

Linda P. Fried,<sup>1</sup> Catherine M. Tangen,<sup>2</sup> Jeremy Walston,<sup>3</sup> Anne B. Newman,<sup>4</sup> Calvin Hirsch,<sup>4</sup> John Gottlinger,<sup>5</sup> Teresa Seeman,<sup>6</sup> Russell Tracy,<sup>7</sup> Willem J. Kop,<sup>8</sup> Gregory Burke,<sup>9</sup> and Mary Ann McBurnie<sup>10</sup> for the Cardiovascular Health Study Collaborative Research Group

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<sup>2</sup>The University of Washington, Seattle

<sup>3</sup>The University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

<sup>4</sup>The University of California at Davis, Sacramento

<sup>5</sup>St. Francis Hospital, Rocher, New York

<sup>6</sup>The University of California at Los Angeles

<sup>7</sup>The University of Vermont, Burlington

<sup>8</sup>Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, Maryland

<sup>9</sup>Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston Salem, North Carolina

## Frailty Assessment

- ▶ Shrinking.
- ▶ Hand Grip Strength using hand dynamometer.
- ▶ Physical Activity.
- ▶ Walking Speed based on Sex.
- ▶ Exhaustion.

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## Transplant Selection Conference

- ▶ Review H+P, chart, reports, labs, radiology results, all evaluations
  
- ▶ Identify risk factors for transplant
  
- ▶ Determine candidacy for transplant
  - Acceptable and able to list on kidney transplant list
  - Further work up required
  - Not acceptable for transplant

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## Cardiovascular Disease

**AHA/ACCF Scientific Statement**

**Cardiac Disease Evaluation and Management Among  
Kidney and Liver Transplantation Candidates**  
A Scientific Statement From the American Heart Association and the  
American College of Cardiology Foundation

*Endorsed by the American Society of Transplant Surgeons, American Society of  
Transplantation, and National Kidney Foundation*

Kitita L. Lentine, MD, MS, Co-Chair; Salvatore P. Cosia, MD, Co-Chair;  
Matthew R. Weir, MD, FAHA; John F. Roberts, MD, FAHA; Lee A. Finkelstein, MD, FAHA;  
Bertalan L. Kasiska, MD; Robert L. Carothers, MD; Michael Regazzini, MD; Kline Bolton, MD;  
Andrew D. Auerbach, MD; Kim A. Eagle, MD, FAHA, Chair; on behalf of the American Heart  
Association Council on the Kidney in Cardiovascular Disease and Council on Peripheral Vascular Disease

Circulation 2012;126:617-63

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## Cardiovascular Risk Stratification

- ▶ Points to consider:
  - ESRD from Diabetic Nephropathy = **Coronary Risk Equivalent**
  
  - Cardiovascular events are **THE** major cause of morbidity and mortality in ESRD and after transplant

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## Goals of Risk Stratification

- ▶ Reduce Cardiovascular Morbidity / Mortality
  - Benefit > harm
  - Actionable outcome of + test
- ▶ Exclude patients at exceptionally high risk

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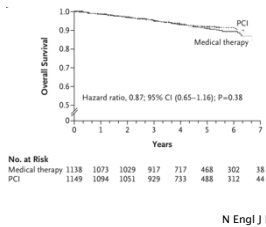
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## Courage Trial – K-M Survival Curve



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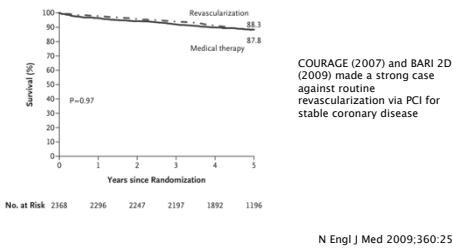
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## BARI 2D – K-M Survival Curve



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### OHSU Transplant Program Approach

- ▶ Non invasive stress testing for patients with:
  - Prior cardiovascular disease
  - Peripheral vascular disease/cerebrovascular disease
  - Diabetes
  - Age > 45 (men) or > 50 yo (women)
  - Symptoms consistent with cardiovascular disease
  
- ▶ Cardiology evaluation for patients with positive stress test

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### What to do with a positive stress test?

- ▶ Coronary Angiography recommended
  
- ▶ Consider risk factors and functional status
  - Poor pre-transplant functional status associated with decreased post transplant survival

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### Complications from diagnostic angiography

- ▶ Overall risk of a major complication is less than 2%
  - Death 0.11%
  - Myocardial infarction 0.05%
  - Stroke 0.07%
  - Vascular complication 0.43%
  - Contrast reaction 0.37%
  - Hemodynamic complication 0.26%

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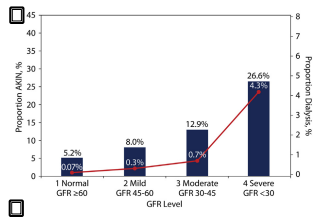
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### Incidence of AKI or dialysis stratified by severity of chronic kidney disease



J Am Coll Cardiol Intv 2014;7:1-9.

### Appropriate Use Criteria, Diabetes

Appropriate Use Score (1-9)

Patients	Asymptomatic Not on AA Therapy or GFR ≥45		Ischemic Symptoms			
	PCI	CABG	PCI	CABG	PCI	CABG
48. ■ One- or two-vessel CAD, no proximal LAD involvement, with low-risk nonreversible findings	M (3)	M (4)	M (3)	M (4)	A (3)	M (3)
49. ■ One- or two-vessel CAD, no proximal LAD involvement, with intermediate- or high-risk nonreversible findings	M (3)	M (4)	M (3)	M (4)	A (3)	A (3)
50. ■ One- or two-vessel CAD, including proximal LAD, with low-risk nonreversible findings	M (3)	M (3)	M (3)	M (3)	A (3)	A (3)
51. ■ One- or two-vessel CAD, including proximal LAD, with intermediate- or high-risk nonreversible findings	M (3)	M (3)	A (3)	M (3)	A (3)	A (3)
52. ■ Left main and/or three-vessel disease, with intermediate- or high-risk nonreversible findings (eg, SYNTAX II <20)	M (3)	A (3)	A (3)	M (3)	A (3)	A (3)
53. ■ Left main and/or three-vessel disease, with intermediate- or high-risk nonreversible findings (eg, SYNTAX II <20)	M (3)	A (3)	M (3)	A (3)	A (3)	A (3)

JACC 2017;69(17):2212-41.

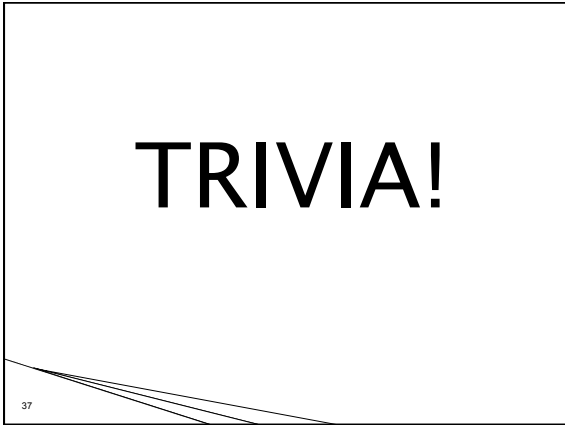
### AHA/ACC Recommendations for Revascularization Prior to Renal Transplant

Normalized blood flow

**Recommendations**

1. Coronary revascularization before transplantation surgery should be considered in patients who meet the criteria outlined in the 2011 ACCF/AHA Guidelines for Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery (Class I, Level of Evidence B). In revascularization candidates, the risk of coronary revascularization may outweigh the risk of transplantation and these risks must be weighed by the multidisciplinary transplantation team on a case-by-case basis until further studies are performed in this population.
2. CABG is probably recommended in preference to PCI to improve survival in patients with multivessel CAD and diabetes mellitus (Class IIc, Level of Evidence B).
3. CABG to improve survival and/or to relieve angina despite optimal medical therapy may be reasonable for patients with ESRD with significant (>50%) left main stenosis or significant (≥70%) stenosis in 2 major vessels or in the proximal left anterior descending artery plus 1 other major vessel, regardless of left ventricular systolic function (Class IIb, Level of Evidence B).
4. It is not recommended that routine prophylactic coronary revascularization be performed in patients with stable CAD, absent symptomatic or survival indications, before transplantation surgery (Class III, Level of Evidence B).

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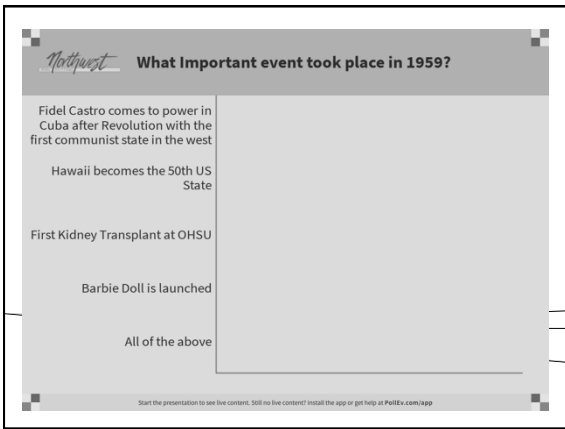
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*Northwest* How would you rate the quality (sensitivity) of non-invasive cardiac testing in ESRD patients?

Good

Fair

Lousy

Start the presentation to see live content. Still no live content? Install the app or get help at PollEv.com/app

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*Northwest* Over the past 30 years, which age group has witnessed the highest rate of increase in kidney transplantation?

18-34

35-49

50-64

65+

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## Aortic Valve Disease

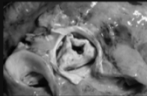
**Recommendation**

1. It may be reasonable to consider ESRD patients with moderate aortic stenosis to be equivalent to demonstrated "rapid progressors" who warrant a yearly echocardiogram and monitoring for early symptoms (Class IIb; Level of Evidence C).

**Valvular Heart Disease**

**Rate of aortic stenosis progression:**

- Non-dialysis: 0.05-0.1 cm<sup>2</sup>/yr
- Dialysis: 0.23 cm<sup>2</sup>/yr



Am J Kidney Dis 2006; 48 (Suppl 3): S11-153

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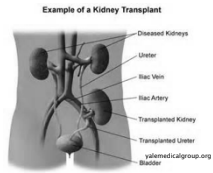
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## Peripheral Vascular Disease

- ▶ Evaluate pelvic vessels in patients with history of claudication or diminished pulses
  - Pelvic plain film -> non contrast CT scan
  - Identify targets for renal anastomosis



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## Peripheral Vascular Disease

- ▶ Carotid doppler for pts with h/o CVA/TIA or carotid bruit
- ▶ MRA brain for pts with Polycystic kidney disease to evaluate for aneurysm
  - Pts with neurologic sx
  - Pts with family history of CVA or sudden death
  - Avoid gadolinium

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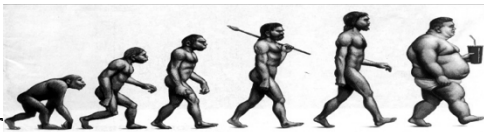
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## Obesity in Renal Transplant

- ▶ Obesity with increased risk for:
  - Craft loss
  - Delayed graft function
  - DVT
  - Wound dehiscence
  - Wound infection



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# Waitlist Updates

Transplant Readiness: Follow-up On-Site Evaluations  
 To be certain that a patient remains ready for transplant if called in, periodic on-site evaluation will be required. The frequency of these visits will be determined by age and risk factors.

Patient Group / Criteria	First Cardiac Testing Update	Additional Cardiac Update Testing	Functional Assessment	Clinic Visit	Update Testing	Social Work Consult
<b>Low Risk</b>						
Men<45, Women<50, no history	None	None	Q 24 mo	1st visit at 24 mo. After 1st visit, Q 48 mo	Q 24 mo	Q 12 mo
<b>Moderate Risk</b>						
Men >45yo, Women >50yo, or Abnormal EKG suggestive of ischemia	Q 24 mo	Q 24 mo	Q 12 mo	1st visit at 24 mo. After 1st visit, Q 48 mo	Q 24 mo	Q 12 mo
History of cardiovascular disease, peripheral arterial or vascular disease, or cerebrovascular disease.	Q 12 mo	Q 24 mo	Q 12 mo	Q 24 mo	Q 24 mo	Q 12 mo
Diabetics / History of diabetes	Q 12 mo	Q 12 mo	Q 12 mo	Q 24 mo	Q 24 mo	Q 12 mo
<b>High Risk</b>						
Age >70 or multiple comorbidities as defined at Committee Review	Q 12 mo	Based on above protocol	Q 12 mo	Q 12 mo	Q 24 mo	Q 12 mo

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# Hyperlipidemia

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# Dyslipidemia in the Transplant Recipient Definitions and Prevalence

Dyslipidemia	Level (mg/dl)	Prevalence (%)
Total Cholesterol	> 200	51-97
LDL Cholesterol	> 100	72-97
Triglycerides	> 150	36
HDL Cholesterol	< 40	14-48

Kasisko B, et al. *Am J Transplant*. 2004  
 Kasisko BL, et al. *J Am Soc Nephrol*. 2000

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## Hyperlipidemia in Kidney Transplant

- ▶ Risk Factors:
  - Obesity, Corticosteroids, Tacrolimus, diuretics, B-blockers, DM, proteinuria
- ▶ Beneficial Effects of Statins:
  - Decrease lipid levels, reduce systemic inflammation, increase insulin sensitivity, anti-oxidant effects, enhance endothelial function, immunomodulatory?

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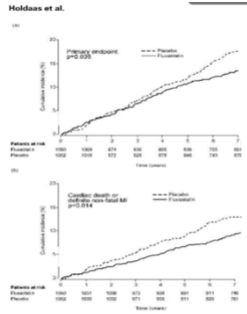
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## ALERT Trial

- 74% Fluvastatin pts had reduced LDL
- Reduced risk of MACE and cardiac death and nonfatal MI
- Statin doses in existing trials are low (simva 10); benefits and harms of higher doses are unknown
- Mortality benefit has not been demonstrated to date



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## Pearls of Lipid MGMT

- ▶ Check at 6 mo, then every year after XP
- ▶ MYOPATHY: r/f = elderly, hi dose, low GFR, other P450 inhibitors
  - Least myopathic: Atorva, prava, fluva
- ▶ Start with low dose (convert to low at transplant) due to r/o rhabdo
- ▶ Caution with high dose Rosuva (proteinuria)
- ▶ Consider ezetimibe in treatment failure

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## Summary

- ▶ Diabetic Nephropathy is a coronary risk equivalent
  - Aspirin, statin, Beta blocker
- ▶ Dialysis patients, and by extension transplant patients, are at higher risk of CAD c/w general population
- ▶ Few studies to validate the proper workup for cardiovascular disease
- ▶ Nutritionist plays a major role on the care and evaluation of ESRD patients as they await transplant

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