months in 30 (49.2%), urinary catheterization in 20 (32.7%) and antibiotic treatment within the past 3 months in 39 (63.9%)

Conclusion

Most associations for ESBL-UTI in Sri Lanka were similar to that had been previously described. However the observed higher incidence of CLD, hypertension and CKD needs further evaluation. The fact that 50.8% did not have a history of recent hospitalization and 36.1% did not have recent antibiotic therapy suggest high community prevalence of ESBL producing organisms.

PP058

Knowledge and Practices on Infection Control among Kidney Transplant Recipients from a Selected Nephrology Unit

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Introduction and objectives

To assess knowledge and practices on infection control among kidney transplant recipients from a selected nephrology unit in Sri Lanka.

Method

A descriptive cross sectional study was carried out. All post renal transplant patients registered at the selected clinic were included in the study. An interviewer administered pretested questionnaire was used for data collection.

Results

A total of 152 participants were included of which majority (67.1%) were males. The ages ranged from 16 -75 years (mean: 44.7, SD: ±13.25) and 48.7% were between 46 – 60 years. Hypertension (35.5%) was the commonest cause for chronic renal disease while it was idiopathic in 25%. Signs of urinary infections were correctly named by 52.6% and 79.6 % of participants were aware that fever was a sign of infection while 59.2% mentioned severe pain at the transplant site as a sign of rejection. Face masks were used by only 43.4 % and this was only when they go outside their homes while only 68.4% use soap and water for hand washing. Knowledge of infection control (52.6%) was at a satisfactory level though practices of infection control was poor. (29.6%). Level of education (p=0.043) and sex (p=0.016) were significantly associated with practices of infection control.

Conclusions

The knowledge on infection control among post renal transplant recipients was satisfactory while practices on infection control was poor. Life style changes need to be instituted to improve the outcome of renal transplant.

PP059

Association of selected HLA DQA1 and DQB1 alleles with *Helicobacter pylori* infection and disease severity among dyspeptic patients

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Introduction and objectives

This study aimed to assess the association of HLA alleles; HLA-DQA1*0102, HLA-DQA1*0103 and HLA-DQB1*0301, with the presence of *H.pylori* infection and disease severity among dyspeptic patients.

Method

Gastric tissue samples from 100 dyspeptic patients, who underwent upper gastro-intestinal endoscopy at Colombo South Teaching Hospital were included. Presence of selected HLA alleles were confirmed using PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction). *H.pylori* infection was determined using PCR and Histology. The histological interpretation was done according to the "Sydney classification".

Results

Out of 100 patients, respective percentages of HLA-DQA1*0102, HLA-DQA1*0103 and HLA-DQB1*0301 were 39, 32 and 20 respectively. Of these, 25 were positive for both DQA1

alleles, and 4 were positive for all three. Presence of H. pylori was confimed in 22 biopsies by PCR and in 13 biopsies by Histological examination. Out of 22 *H.pylori* PCR positive patients, presence of alleles DQA1*0102, DQA1*0103 and DQB1*0301 were 50.0%(11/22), 36.4%(8/22) and 9.1%(2/22) respectively. By histology, 53.8%(7/13), 23.1%(3/13) and 15.1%(2/13) were identified to have HLA-DQA1*0102, HLA-DQA1*0103 and HLA-DQB1*0301respectively. Most of the samples showed only mild chronic inflammation. Out of the 20 samples positive for HLA-DQB1*0301,two samples had moderate inflammation and another sample was positive for intestinal metaplasia. Spearman rank correlation coefficient analysis of HLA-DQA1*0102 showed a weak positive correlation (p=0.118) and DQA1*0103 (p= -.066) and DQB1*0301 (ρ= -.045)showed a weak negative correlation, respectively for *H.pylori* infection.

Conclusions

H. pylori infection had a weak correlation to the selected HLA alleles in the local population. No significant association between disease severity and HLA alleles were observed.

PP060

Development of a quantitative PCR assay to evaluate HER2 status of Gastric carcinoma in a cohort of Sri Lankan patients

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Introduction and objectives

Human epidermal growth factor receptor2(HER2) protein overexpression and/or HER2gene amplification is linked to dismal outcome of Gastric carcinoma(GCa). Immunohistochemistry(IHC) and fluorescence in situ hybridization(FISH) are key-methods to identify patients for HER2 targeted therapy. Drawbacks of both methods warrant novel tests.

The study aimed to determine whether quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction (qPCR) could serve as a supplementary-method to evaluate HER2 status of GCa in a cohort of Sri Lankan patients and investigate correlation between HER2 assessed by different methods and clinic-pathological features.

Method

Twenty GCa-patients with known IHC-HER2 scores were evaluated. qPCR was performed for HER2gene and Ameloid precursor protein (reference gene) in Formalin fixed paraffin embedded GCa tissue. Threshold values(Ct) were analyzed using Pfaffl-method to detect HER2gene amplification.

Results

HER2positivity by IHC(protein) and qPCR(gene) were 20% and 35% respectively. Sensitivity and specificity of qPCR was 67% and 76% respectively and results were reproducible HER2protein positivity was correlated with Tumour TNM-stage and Lauren-histological types($P<0.05$). ositive expression of HER2gene was correlated with depth of tumour invasion, differentiation and Lymph node-status($P<0.05$). Diagnostic consistency between IHC and qPCR($\kappa=0.146$) was slightly agreeable($0.01<k<0.20$), having 65% concordance.

Conclusions

Discrepancies between HER2 positivity by IHC and qPCR were possibly due to transcription activation by other genes in the absence of HER2 gene amplification and the aberrant form of HER2protein not detected by IHC. Studies also indicate a higher-proportion of IHC negative, but HER2gene amplified GCa by FISH.qPCR may be used as a supplementary-method for detection of HER2status of GCa in local setting.