

“The celebration of being alive”....

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From the guest editor's desk....

As I sat down to write guest editorial for this special IJRI issue on Transplant Imaging - “The celebration of being alive...”, this magical title from a chapter in my class 9th English textbook, flashed across my mind. I still remember this awesome chapter by Dr. Christiaan Barnard, a South African cardiac surgeon who performed the first successful human-to-human heart transplantation. He beautifully narrated the experiences during his illustrious medical career to explain the human sufferings. He nicely emphasized on the need to live in present and to ‘celebrate’ what we have; rather than to ‘complain’ about what we don't have. In the garden of memory, happy moments are always the brightest blossoms....

With so much suffering all around us, ‘being alive should be a celebration’, then the ‘act of giving life’ to someone is certainly the noblest acts in humanity. Saving lives through organ transplantation is one such act which still remains the last hope for a lot of human sufferings. Transplantation can be described as the mankind's journey to frontiers of medical knowledge in its most daring efforts to defy illness and death. Transplantation Medicine is one of the most challenging areas of modern medicine and involves an in-depth understanding of basic sciences, immunology and surgical techniques. The advent of cyclosporine changed transplantation from research to life-saving mode of treatment. As in other spheres of Medicine, ‘Transplant Imaging’ has also evolved as a sub-speciality. Imaging-based pre-transplantation donor evaluation, surgical planning and post-transplant surveillance are now integral parts of all organ transplantation programs. Radiologist is therefore now a key player in team transplantation.

This issue of IJRI aim to highlight the role and relevance of ‘transplant imaging’ in different transplant programs. At the time of this writing, only Renal, Liver and Marrow transplantation is being routinely performed in India. As the number of centres doing transplant surgeries in India is rapidly increasing, the topic is quite relevant for the practising Radiologists and Radiologists in training. On behalf of IJRI, I welcome you all to this issue of IJRI which is dedicated to ‘Transplant Imaging’. We have articles on CT evaluation in living liver donors by Dr. Vohra and on post-liver transplant Doppler by Dr. Sanyal. We also have review articles on pediatric small bowel transplant by Dr. Bhargava, pancreatic transplantation by Dr. Heller, Stem cell transplantation by Dr. Pandey and lung transplantation by Dr. Madan. Though renal transplantation is common in India, laparoscopic donor nephrectomy is recently gaining momentum, which needs much more comprehensive imaging-based donor evaluation. I have also included an article to address this important issue. Clinician-Radiologist interaction is certainly the key to maximise the information from these imaging studies and attain the highest standard of patient care.

Through this editorial, I wish to convey my sincere thanks to all the authors to accept my invitation and to make their wonderful contribution towards this issue of IJRI. I also wish to convey my thanks to Editor-in-Chief, IJRI; Dr. Sanjay Jain for giving me the privilege to work as the guest editor for this special issue on ‘Transplant Imaging’.

I am sure you will find this issue of IJRI useful in your clinical practice and its contents will add to your knowledge on current trends in transplant imaging. Your queries and feedbacks are invited and will be promptly addressed.

I hope, this special issue of IJRI will find a suitable place in your reading preferences.

Happy reading...

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