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New immuno-suppressants to improve kidney, liver transplants

TO ensure the success of kidney and liver transplants, two new immune suppressant drugs are now available.

This announcement came during a virtual two-day conference held under the auspices of the Egyptian Nephrology Society and several Egyptian hepatologists.

Dr Magdy el-Sharkawy, Professor of Internal Medicine and Nephrology at Ain-Shams University said: "Renal transplant is considered the best option for patients suffering chronic kidney disease in terms of survival and quality of life."

"There is a good chance to improve outcomes by using the best protocols for immune-suppressant medications as well as raising patient and community awareness," he said.

Dr Adel Bakr, Professor of

Nephrology, Urology and Nephrology Centre, Mansoura University explained that the aim of renal transplants nowadays is to attain better long-term outcomes and improve quality of life for the recipient."

There are so many immune-suppressive agents around and the role of the nephrologist is to tailor immune-suppressant therapy according to the needs of each patient, he added.

"There is no one-size fits all. It has to be tailored according to category stage or category risk of each patient.

"We have to consider the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of immune-suppression, observe the drug interaction of immune-suppression and what increases the drug concentration in blood in order to benefit from this infor-

mation to save on the costs of immune-suppression", Dr Bakr explained.

"The prerequisites for generics to be used and to be of value are to be FDA-approved and to have undergone stability testing, offering and adequate intrapatient and interpatient variability and a balanced therapeutic window to avoid any complications," Dr Bakr added.

Immuno-suppressants, Tacrolimus 0.5& 1gm and Mycophenolate Mofetil 500mg are already available worldwide. Both drugs show significant success in reducing organ rejection and help patients attain better quality of life.

The introduction of Tacrolimus is of particular importance due to its role in enhancing patient and graft survival amongst the immune-suppressant portfolios.

Both Tacrolimus and Mycophenolate Mofetil have undergone rigorous quality checks and standards, allowing them to receive FDA approval.

"Moreover, both drugs were developed within the context of the strictest generics guidelines. Generic medicines are key to the sustainability of healthcare systems. Between 2005 and 2015, off-patent medicines allowed twice as many European patients to access key medicines, for the same budget", Peter Effat, Medical Head for Sandoz Egypt said.

"A key part of our work ethic has always been to pioneer ways to help more patients access high quality medicines and to collaborate with local authorities wherever possible, to ensure wider and sustained patient access to essential, life-changing and life-saving drugs.

