Preface

Liver Transplantation: Update of Concepts and Practice

Liver transplantation has remarkably changed the outlook for patients in whom advanced liver disease was once typically fatal. In the current issue of the Clinics in Liver Disease, we sought assistance from a distinguished group of experts to compile an update on concepts and practices in this ever-evolving field.

Organ allocation policies were profoundly changed after the adoption of the Model for End Stage Liver Disease (MELD) in 2002, and we now refer to the transplant periods as “pre- and post-MELD eras.” Dr Wiesner discusses the current changing trends of organ allocation policies, including the recent “Share 35” policy in the first article. The articles by Professor Hayes on cardiopulmonary issues and Dr Bunnapradist on kidney disease address the workup and management of the transplant candidate in the peritransplant setting.

Dr O’Leary discusses acute chronic liver failure, which is now recognized as an important entity, and the management of viral hepatitis, especially hepatitis C, which is rapidly evolving, is discussed by Dr Verna. Dr Roayaie addresses the key role of liver transplant in the management of primary liver cancer, while Dr Feng discusses the current role and strategy in the transplantation of extended criteria or marginal liver grafts. Dr Kelly provides her expertise from a pediatric angle in dealing with the issues and challenges in an adolescent transplant patient.

Living donor liver transplantation, which is an important option for many potential recipients, is discussed by Dr Trotter, while intestinal and multivisceral transplantation is discussed by the group from the University of Miami, led by Dr Vianna. The remarkable improvement in long-term outcomes after liver transplantation is a reflection of the advancements in the immunosuppression, as discussed by Dr Shaked, and posttransplant care, as related by Dr Charlton. Long-term outcomes unfortunately are diminished by recurrence of primary liver disease in the graft, as reviewed by Dr Graziadei. Dr Markman discusses the difficult issue of retransplantation, making the current issue wholesome and complete.
We are extremely thankful to the authors who have contributed their time and effort to provide us with their expertise and insights in this issue on liver transplantation. We also thank Dr Norman Gitlin and the Elsevier editorial staff for providing us the opportunity to edit the issue.

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