

Favipiravir Use in Kidney Transplant Recipients with Covid 19: A Single Center Experience

Burcu Kaya¹, Dilek Barutcu Atas¹, Elif Tigen Tükenmez¹, Ebru Asicioglu¹, Hakki Arikan¹, Serhan Tuglular¹, and Arzu Velioglu¹

¹Marmara University School of Medicine

June 7, 2021

Abstract

Aim: Kidney transplant patients are amongst the high-risk groups for severe Covid 19. To date, no specific antiviral agent has been found uniformly effective against severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV2). Favipiravir, the recommended drug by The Turkish Ministry of Health, was uniformly supplied to all patients diagnosed to have COVID 19 with a positive nasopharyngeal swab PCR test. The aim of our study was to retrospectively compare our kidney transplant recipients who developed COVID-19 infection started on Favipiravir to those who did not use Favipiravir for the clinical course of the disease with a special emphasis on the occurrence of side effects/adverse events. **Methods:** Thirty-seven consecutive KT recipients with a median age of 46 years and of whom 62.2% were women; 8 deceased /29 living related donor, with a 8.0 (5.5-12.5) years median duration of transplantation were included in the study. **Results:** Twenty-six (70.3%) patients received Favipiravir, 11(29.7%) did not. There was no statistical significance in baseline demographic, clinical and laboratory findings between the groups except that the Favipiravir group was older and had a higher requirement of oxygen treatment. There was no statistically significant difference in the course and outcome of COVID-19 infection, in the occurrence of side effects/adverse events related to Favipiravir between the two groups. Laboratory data at baseline, day7 and 30 were also comparable between the groups. **Conclusion:** Although the efficacy of Favipiravir in the treatment of COVID-19 infection is currently controversial, Favipiravir can safely be used in kidney transplant patients.

Hosted file

main text.docx available at <https://authorea.com/users/418309/articles/525091-favipiravir-use-in-kidney-transplant-recipients-with-covid-19-a-single-center-experience>