Anal Cancer Screening practices in Liver Transplant Centers Across the United Stated: A Nationwide study

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Introduction

- Transplant recipients are at an increased risk of developing anogenital Human Papillomavirus (HPV)-related disease, including anal high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesions (HSIL) and cancer compared with the general population[1,2]
- A recent randomized control trial showed that the risk of anal cancer was significantly lower with treatment for anal HSIL than with active monitoring in HIV patients[3].
- There are currently no well-established guidelines for anal cancer screening in this population, and timely primary and secondary prevention practices remain scarce

Objectives

The aim of this study is to understand the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of anal cancer screening in adult liver transplant candidates and recipients at transplant center across the United States (U.S.).

Materials and Methods

- An online questionnaire was created that consists of four sections on 1) knowledge and beliefs regarding the risk of cancers and HPV in the transplant population, 2) current practices regarding anal cancer screening, barriers and needs, 3) HPV vaccination and 4) transplant center related information.
- The survey was sent in February 2022 to medical directors with publicly available emails from liver transplant centers across the U.S (n=113) with a reminder sent in May and September 2022.

Results

- We received a total of 26 responses (23% response rate) of which 2 were incomplete and were not included in the analysis
- Half of the responses (n=13) were from large transplant centers performing more than 100 transplants per year.

Results

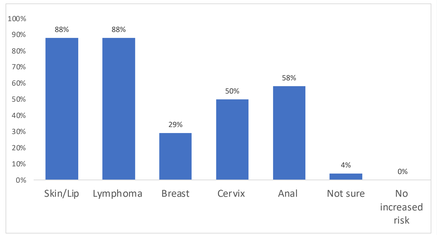

Figure 1: Percent of centers that believe that transplant recipients are at higher risk for different types of cancers than the general population (n=24)

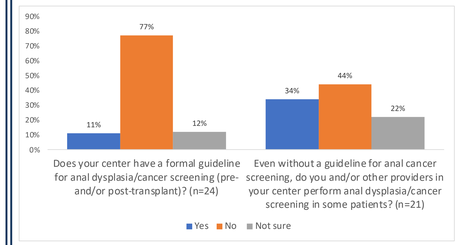

Figure 2: Centers' practices regarding pre- and post-transplant cancer screening in adults

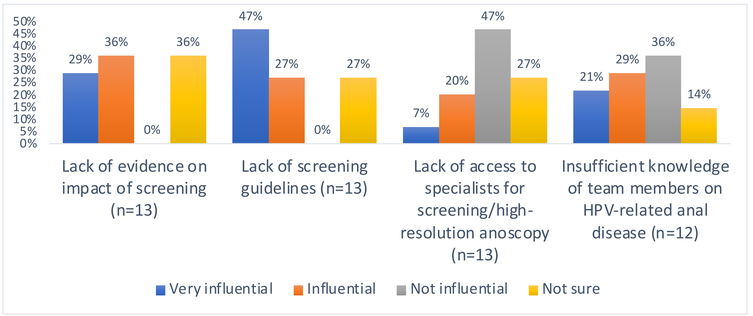

Figure 3: Centers' responses regarding what influences not having anal dysplasia/cancer screening guidelines

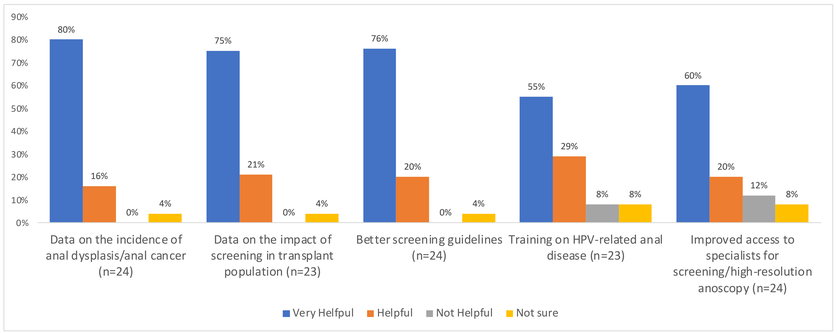

Figure 4: Centers' responses regarding what would help make decisions on implementing anal dysplasia/anal cancer screening

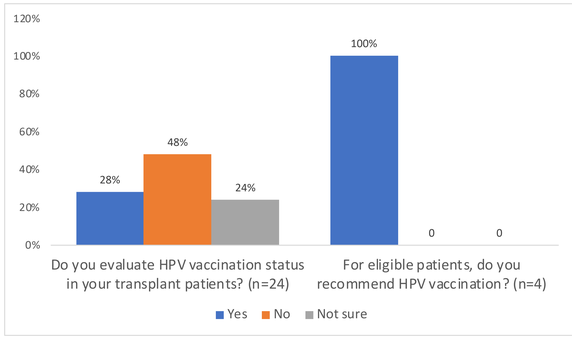

Figure 5 – Centers' practices regarding HPV vaccination in the adult transplant population

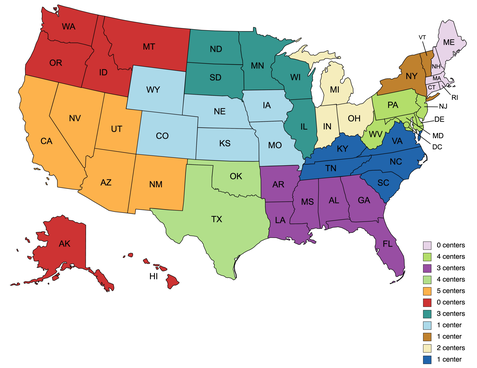

Figure 6: Map of the United States with number of centers participating in the survey by UNOS region.

Conclusion

- Results reveal non-standardized anal cancer screening practices among transplant centers.
- The results may help catalyze a more standardized screening approach to anal cancer screening in transplant patients.

References

1. Chin-Hong P V., Reid GE. Human papillomavirus infection in solid organ transplant recipients: Guidelines from the American Society of Transplantation Infectious Diseases Community of Practice. Clin Transplant. 2019;33.
2. Albuquerque A, Miranda HP, Lopes J, Gandara J, Rodrigues S, Gaspar R, et al. Liver transplant recipients have a higher prevalence of anal squamous intraepithelial lesions. Br J Cancer [Internet]. 2017;117:1761–7. Available from: http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/bjc.2017.370
3. Palefsky JM, Lee JY, Jay N, Goldstone SE, Darragh TM, Dunlevy HA, et al. Treatment of Anal High-Grade Squamous Intraepithelial Lesions to Prevent Anal Cancer. N Engl J Med. 2022;386:2273–82.