



Submission No.: CS04-9410

Session : Concurrent Symposium 4 (Kidney/Pancreas)

Date & Time, Place : November 17 (Fri), 15:10-16:40, Room 6F-1

Session Title : BKV nephropathy

Overview of BKV nephropathy

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Since its first identification in 1971, BK virus-associated nephropathy (BKVAN) has been recognized as an important cause of graft dysfunction in kidney transplant recipients, accounting for approximately 10% of the cause of graft loss after kidney transplantation. Recent advancements in its surveillance, diagnosis, and treatment have significantly improved the clinical outcomes for individuals with BKVAN. However, due to the absence of specific treatments targeting the BK virus, kidney transplant recipients often encounter progressive graft dysfunction linked to BKVAN, alongside the risk of simultaneous acute rejection resulting from the reductions in immunosuppressive drugs. This lecture will provide an overview of BKVAN, covering clinical virology, epidemiology, the natural course, and relevant risk factors, with a focus on the recent updates. BK virus-associated microRNAs, which hold promise as innovative biomarkers for non-invasive diagnosis of BKVAN will also be introduced.