

Commercial kidney transplantation: attitude, knowledge, perception and experience of recipients



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INTRODUCTION

Kidney transplantation is the gold standard for patients with end-stage kidney disease (ESKD). In view of shortages of available organs, long wait times for possible transplantation and strict regulation, many patients opt for commercial transplantation. This study elicits the reasons and motivations for ESKD patients to elect for commercial transplant.

METHOD

A questionnaire-based evaluation was conducted during the period from July 2015 until late December 2015. It consisted of 28 multiple choice questions and was distributed to all patients who underwent commercial kidney transplantation from 2012 to 2015. After the collection of the answers, data were entered in an excel spreadsheet, confirmed by the two researchers and analyzed by utilizing STATA software packages (College Station, Texas).

RESULTS

Of the 150 patients approached, 106 agreed to participate. 60% were male with an average age of 41.5 (SD14.8) and ranged from 18 to 83 years. The majority (82%) of participants were educated ranging from primary to college level.

Figure 1:

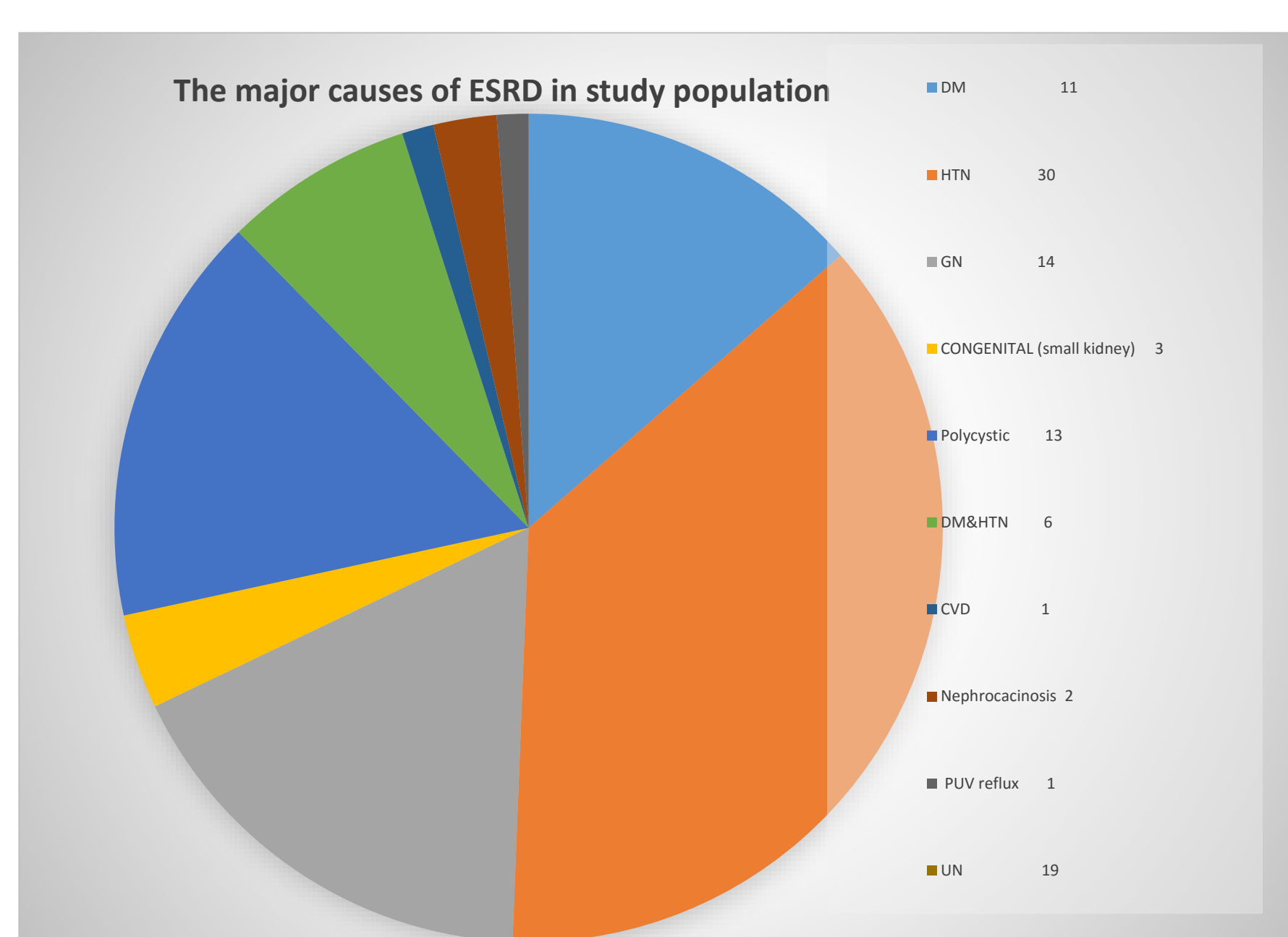


Figure 2:

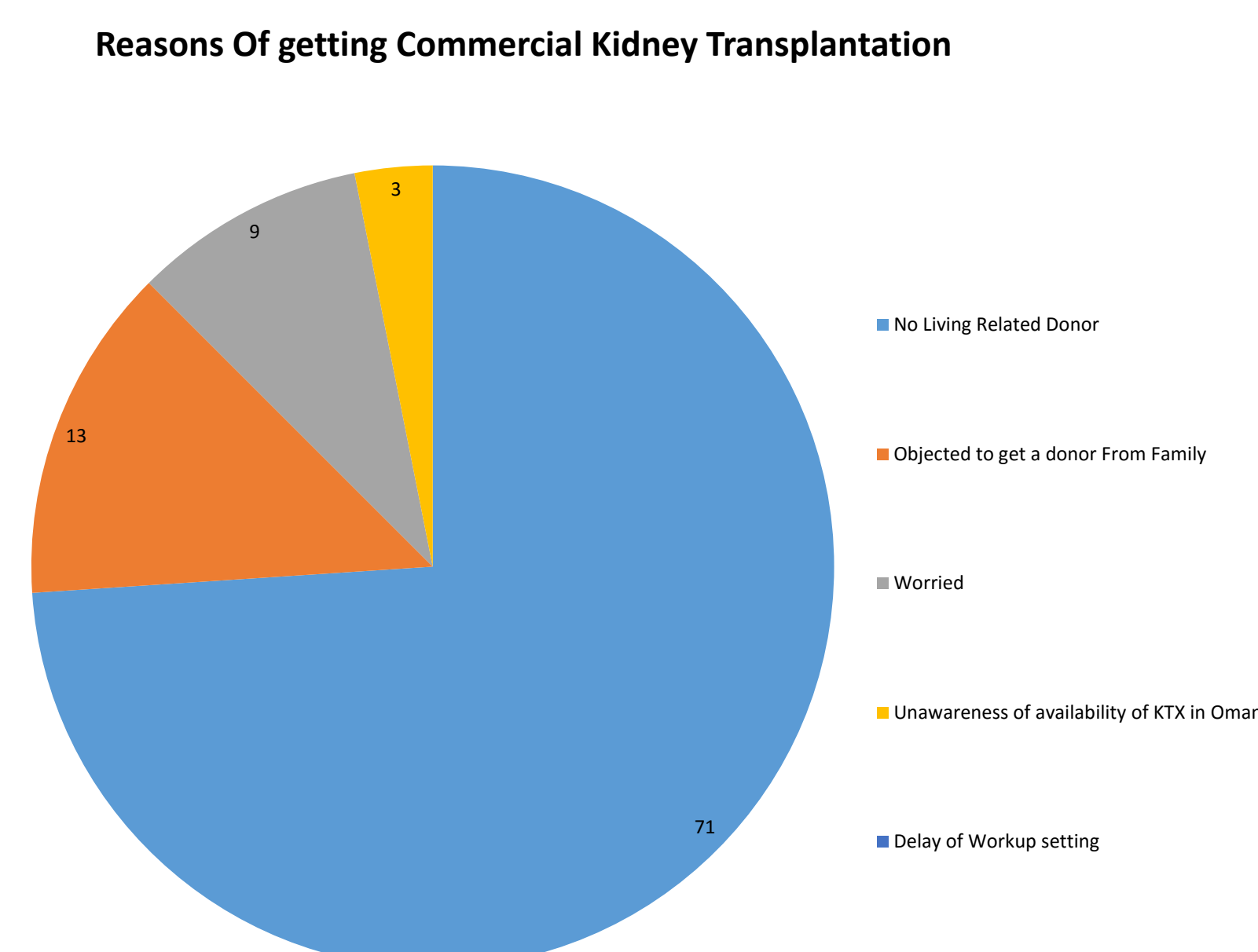


Table 1: Assess their Knowledge regarding commercial kidney transplantation , availability in Oman, complication and their family acceptance before travel

Variables	Participants %	
Availability of relative RTX in Oman	Yes	81
	No	11
	Not sure	8
Complication of CRTX	Yes	49
	No	39
	Not Sure	12
family discussion before travel	Yes	77
	No	23

Table 2: experience impact regarding the transplantation among the participants

Variables	Participants %	
feeling	Comfortable	68
	worried	22
	Not sure	10
Repeat again	Yes	40
	No	27
	Not sure	33
Advice others	Yes	59
	No	36
	Not sure	5
Sell your kidney	Yes	21
	No	50
	Not sure	29

Table 3: Operation Payment and the timing

Variables	Participants %	
Operation payment	\$ 15,000-30,000	3
	\$ 30,000-45,000	33
	< \$45,000	52
	Not sure	12
Timing of payment	Before	65
	After	30
	N sure	5

DISCUSSION

From a cultural perspective, most of the participants agreed that the commercial practice is not acceptable and therefore they need more education and counseling regarding the moral and ethical considerations of organ transplantation. Moreover, medical and surgical considerations, in addition to ethical aspects of living unrelated transplantation, are even more complicated due to concern of commercialization and poor settings of transplant procedures that compromise both the donor and recipients' lives to various malpractices and surgical complications.

CONCLUSION

Beneficence, doing good, avoiding harm, autonomy and fairness is a central belief of medical ethics, is the commitment to attempt at all times to do good for the patient, either a donor or recipient.

However, it is impossible to suggest a uniform solution for all countries because of deep differences in economic status as well as social and cultural values. Efforts must therefore be directed towards strengthening the national program with full logistic, financial and strong legislations that protect human lives locally, regionally and globally and must collaborate with international efforts to combat organ trafficking and commercialism and to encourage the notion of humanity's best interest.

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