

Indication and Timing of Referral for Lung TPL



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Lung transplantation is an only therapy for end-stage lung disease patients. Proper timing of referral is important, because delayed work-up can cause the loss of lung transplant opportunity, while early referral for lung transplantation can burden the patients and healthcare system.

This lecture will review the indications and contraindications for lung transplantation covering general considerations and major disease categories including chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, interstitial lung diseases, pulmonary vascular diseases such as pulmonary arterial hypertension, and chronic suppurative conditions such as bronchiectasis. Not only general considerations for transplantation but also the specific considerations are important. The specific considerations are as follows: the recognition of the clinical sign of progressive disease and poor prognosis, such as declining lung function, increasing oxygen requirements, progressive exercise limitation and frequent hospitalization.

This lecture will also review the timing of referral for lung transplantation. The ideal timing of referral is the stage when the patients remain stable enough to endure evaluation and achieve maximal benefit through the lung transplantation, but before progression to irreversible multi-organ dysfunction. Additional considerations include comorbidities, general condition, disease-specific prognostic factors and bridging therapies before lung transplantation when appropriate.

In conclusion, this session will provide a lecture for identifying appropriate candidate and ensuring the ideal timing of referral for lung transplantation. By supporting well-informed decision-making, clinicians can help decide the patients for lung transplantation and improve the outcome of patients with end-stage lung disease.