

*A guide to
new developments*

Kidney Transplantation: Strategies to Prevent Organ Rejection

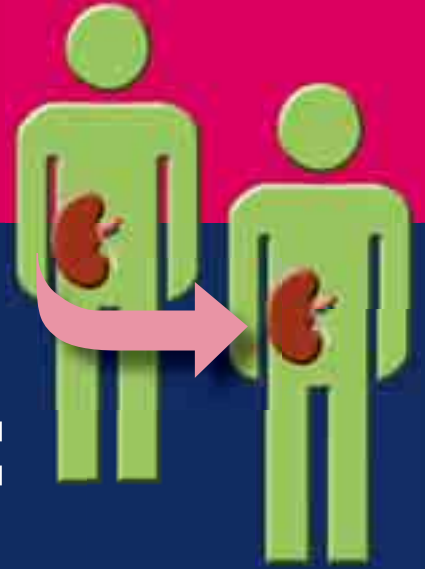
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Transplantation is today firmly established as the therapy of choice for end-stage organ failure. However, despite recent developments, this therapy is still not without challenges and risks: The necessity to take immunosuppressive drugs for the rest of one's life to prevent allograft rejection trades the morbidity and mortality of organ failure for the risks of infection and cancer as well as for an increased mortality from cardiovascular disease. Thus, there is an urgent need for optimizing the outcome of transplantation by achieving long-term, drug-free graft acceptance with normal organ function. Recently, numerous insights into the dynamic inter-relationship of host immune responses elicited by donor antigen presentation have substantially broadened our understanding of the cascade of events resulting in the acquisition of tolerance. With the pharmacopoeia of the transplant biologist continually expanding, the potential treatment combinations have become baffling and their impact on strategies to induce tolerance even more complex. This book presents novel insights into the pathways of acute rejection and their monitoring through molecular tests, new immunosuppressive agents currently under development as well as the most recent and promising approaches to induce tolerance that have emerged from experimental animal studies.

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*Fields of Interest: Nephrology, Transplantation,
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Contents

- Preface: **Ronco, C.; Chiaramonte, S.; Remuzzi, G.**
Renal Transplantation: Strategies to Prevent Organ Rejection – The Role of an Inter-Regional Reference Center: **Cardillo, M. et al.**
Kidney Transplantation in the Hyper-immunized Patient: **Gloor, J.**
Chronic Induction. What's New in the Pipeline: **Vincenti, F.**
Steroid or Calcineurin Inhibitor-Sparing Immunosuppressive Protocols: **Grinyó, J.M.; Cruzado, J.M.**
Steroid-Free Lymphocyte Depletion Protocols. The Potential for Partial Tolerance? **McCauley, J.**
Chronic Graft Loss. Immunological and Non-Immunological Factors: **Hernandez-Fuentes, M.P.; Lechler, R.I.**
Lymphocyte Depletion as a Barrier to Immunological Tolerance: **Neujahr, D.; Turka, L.A.**
Monitoring of Immunosuppressive Therapy in Renal Transplanted Patients: **Chiaramonte, S.; Dissegna, D.; Ronco, C.**
Chronic Allograft Nephropathy. A Multiple Approach to Target Non-immunological Factors: **Ruggenenti, P.**
Transplantation Tolerance. A Complex Scenario Awaiting Clinical Applicability: **Sayegh, M.H.; Perico, N.; Remuzzi, G.**
Dendritic Cells, Tolerance and Therapy of Organ Allograft Rejection: **Raimondi, G.; Thomson, A.W.**
Natural versus Adaptive Regulatory T Cells: **Cassis, L.; Aiello, S.; Noris, M.**
Reviewing the Mechanism of Peripheral Tolerance in Clinical Transplantation: **Suciu-Foca, N.; Cortesini, R.**
The Goal of Intragraft Gene Therapy: **Tomasoni, S.; Benigni, A.**

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