Pancreas transplant at Taipei Veterans General Hospital
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Type 1 diabetes eventually leads to nephropathy, neuropathy, retinopathy and
angiopathy after 10 – 30 years. Currently, pancreas transplant is the treatment of
choice in tight control of blood sugar for IDDM patients, and further to stabilize,
prevent or even to reverse the diabetic complications. We will present our experience
in pancreas transplant which was initiated on September 19, 2003. From September
2003 to Nov. 2014, there were 102 pancreas transplants performed for 98 patients at
Taipei Veterans General Hospital, with 39 SPK, 10 PAK, 40 PTA and 13 PBK. Most
(82.3%) of our pancreas transplants were for IDDM patients. The blood sugar
usually returned to normal level within 5 hours (median) after revascularization of
the pancreas grafts. The fasting blood sugar maintained within normal range
thereafter throughout the whole clinical course in most cases. There were 2 surgical
mortality. The technical success rate was 96.0%. Excluding the 4 cases with
technique failure, overall 1-year pancreas graft survival is 98.5% and 5-year is 94.1%,
with 100% 1-year for SPK, 97.1% 1-year for PTA, 100% 1-year for PAK and 100%
1-year for PBK.

In conclusion, pancreas transplant provided an ideal insulin-free solution for
DM, especially IDDM. Pancreas transplant could be performed with similar
successful rate irrespective of the type of pancreas transplant at our hospital.