

STATISTICAL METHODS FOR NTR

The statistical methods described were used to summarise the data collected from the National Transplant Registry (NTR). These analyses were generated for different types of transplant, such as bone and marrow, bone and tissue, cornea, heart and lung, liver and kidney.

1. Overall

The stock and flow tables summarised transplant activity in Malaysia. Places and centres of transplant activities were also reported. Treatment rate was calculated by the ratio of the count of number of new patients or prevalent patients in a given year to the mid-year population of Malaysia in that year, and expressed in per million-population. Annual death rates are calculated by dividing the number of deaths in a year by the estimated mid-year patient population.

2. Recipient's characteristics

The information on recipient's characteristics was summarised in this section. These tables included the recipient's age, gender, ethnic group, serology data, primary disease(s), indication for transplantation, current immunosuppressive drug(s) treatment, etc. For summarising continuous data, the mean, standard deviation, median, minimum and maximum were reported. On the other hand, both the count and percentages were reported for discrete data. Invariably, there are situations where there is missing data. For purposes of analysis, subjects with missing continuous data had their values imputed by using the mean from measures of other records. For discrete data, analysis was confined to available data and no imputation was done.

3. Transplant activity

These tables provided the information on transplant activity, such as the time of transplant, type of transplant, duration of surgery etc.

4. Outcome

The outcome of a transplant activity was tabulated in this section. Kaplan Meier method was used to estimate the probability of survival at different durations.

Time trend analysis was used to assess the association between time (e.g. year) and response variables (e.g. outcome). Statistical tests such as Spearman correlation test and chi-square test may be used to test whether or not the linear trend is statistically significant. Unfortunately, this was not performed as the registry is in its first year of operation. As more data is accrued to its database over time, time trend analysis will be of interest in future.