

Five Year Activity of the Kyushu Lung Transplant Conference

—The Future Lung Transplant Program in Kyusyu Area

Takeshi SHIRAIISHI¹⁾, Katsunobu KAWAHARA²⁾, Takao HIGUCHI¹⁾,
Shin HIRAYAMA¹⁾, Satoshi YAMAMOTO¹⁾, Masafumi HIRATSUKA¹⁾,
Akinori IWASAKI¹⁾, Kan OKABAYASHI³⁾ and Takayuki SHIRAKUSA¹⁾

¹⁾ *The Second Department of Surgery, Fukuoka University School of Medicine*

²⁾ *The Second Department of Surgery, Oita University School of Medicine*

³⁾ *Department of Thoracic Surgery, National Fukuoka-Higashi Hospital*

Abstract : Organ transplantation from brain dead donors including lung transplantation has now become accepted for variety of end-stage diseases. After long time debate about medical, political and ethical aspects related to brain dead organ donation, the Japanese transplantation program was established in 1998 starting with 4 authorized lung transplant institutes, but including no hospital in the Kyushu area. Five years have passed since then, however, and only 15 cases of brain dead donor have so far been used for transplantation. Public enlightenment and education about organ transplantation for citizens as well as primary physicians is therefore urgently needed to expand and achieve a greater number of successful transplantations.

We established the “Kyushu Lung Transplant Conference” in 1997 and have since met twice a year for the purpose of educating and clarifying the aims and goals regarding the future of the lung transplant system in Kyushu. The main activity of this conference is to search the possible lung transplant candidates from the society and evaluate them. During the past 5 years, the members have discussed 27 patients regarding their indications for transplant, and 10 cases were considered to be suitable for lung transplantation and 2 of them were sent to authorized institutes to undergo a lung transplant.

In this paper we discuss the activity of the “Kyushu Lung Transplant Conference” over the past five years and also describe the current status of the Japanese lung transplant system.

Key words : Lung, Transplantation, Pulmonary disease, Organ donation