Maine Medical Center
Transplant Program
Post-Operative Kidney Transplant Ultrasound Policy

Purpose

To define the criteria for obtaining a post-operative kidney transplant ultrasound prior to patient discharge.

Policy

It is the policy of the Maine Transplant Program to provide the best care possible to our patients who receive kidney transplants. It has been determined that a timely transplant ultrasound can identify potential threats to the transplanted kidney, allowing the appropriate intervention to be made and optimizing kidney viability.

Procedures

A) All recipients of kidney transplants will have an OR table post abdominal wound closure Preliminary Kidney Perfusion Ultrasound to be interpreted by the Transplant Surgeon. A completion Kidney Transplant evaluation US will be performed in the PACU prior to the transfer of the patient to the Transplant Unit.

B) The need for subsequent Kidney transplant Ultrasound evaluation will be determined by the Transplant care team including but not limited to below clinical scenarios.

1. All recipients who experience delayed graft function (defined by one these three criteria: less than 40 ml urine within 24 hours; less than 25% drop in creatinine or receiving hemodialysis therapy within one week of transplant), must have a transplant ultrasound on post-operative day +1.

2. All recipients who experience a significant reduction in hematocrit over 24 hours that is not explained by volume overload issues.

3. All recipients who undergo multiple transplant arterial anastomoses during transplant surgery must have a transplant ultrasound by the day before discharge, unless one or more of the prior criteria have been met and an ultrasound has already been performed.

4. All recipients receiving postoperative anticoagulation must have a transplant ultrasound by the day before discharge, unless one or more of the prior criteria have been met and an ultrasound has already been performed.

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