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AVALIAÇÃO DOS FATORES ASSOCIADOS AO GANHO DE PESO EM
PACIENTES SUBMETIDOS AO TRANSPLANTE RENAL

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**AVALIAÇÃO DOS FATORES ASSOCIADOS AO GANHO DE PESO EM
PACIENTES SUBMETIDOS AO TRANSPLANTE RENAL**

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À minha família, com gratidão por seu amor, sua compreensão, presença e apoio incansável.

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“Naquilo em que a vida depender só de
você, capriche!”

Lígia Guerra.

RESUMO

O transplante renal é considerado a melhor terapia de substituição renal para pacientes com doença renal crônica terminal, pois aumenta a qualidade de vida e sobrevida do paciente. O ganho de peso e suas consequências metabólicas são comuns no pós-transplante e podem estar associados a piores desfechos nestes pacientes. Além dos fatores classicamente associados ao ganho de peso, os pacientes submetidos ao transplante podem apresentar alguns outros, como uso de imunossupressores e perda de massa muscular. Aliados a estes, ainda existem outros potenciais indutores de ganho de peso que não foram adequadamente estudados, como por exemplo, as alterações na microbiota intestinal após o transplante. Pacientes obesos da população em geral apresentam modificações na microbiota intestinal quando comparados com indivíduos saudáveis. Poucos estudos avaliaram a microbiota intestinal em pacientes transplantados. O presente estudo teve os seguintes objetivos: identificar os fatores associados ao ganho de peso após o transplante renal (artigo original) e caracterizar a microbiota intestinal de pacientes submetidos a transplante de órgãos sólidos e sua possível relação com alterações no peso corporal (artigo de revisão sistemática). Para identificar os fatores associados ao ganho de peso, foi realizado um estudo de coorte retrospectivo com 374 pacientes submetidos ao transplante renal atendidos no Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre (HCPA) entre Janeiro de 2006 e Julho de 2013. Os resultados obtidos indicaram que o sexo feminino, menor peso corporal pré-transplante, menor número de internações e rins provenientes de doadores vivos foram associados com o ganho de peso superior a 5% no primeiro ano pós-transplante renal. Na revisão sistemática, de 765 estudos inicialmente identificados, somente dois avaliaram a microbiota intestinal após o transplante renal. Foram descritas alterações na composição das bactérias intestinais após o transplante e estas foram associadas a maior incidência de rejeição aguda e infecções nos receptores. No entanto, nenhum estudo avaliou a relação da microbiota intestinal com alterações de peso corporal neste contexto. A identificação dos fatores relacionados ao ganho de peso após o transplante renal é importante para a seleção de pacientes em risco e que deveriam receber intervenções preventivas a fim de evitar o ganho de peso após o transplante. No que diz respeito à microbiota intestinal, são necessários mais estudos para avaliar se modificações na sua composição têm impacto no peso corporal após o transplante.

Palavras-chave: transplante renal, obesidade, ganho de peso, microbiota, desfechos.

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LISTA DE ABREVIATURAS E SIGLAS

- ABTO** - Associação Brasileira de Transplante de órgãos
- ADA** - American Diabetes Association
- AR** - Acute Rejection
- ATG** - Anti-thymocyte globulin
- BMI** - Body Mass Index
- CMV** - Citomegalovírus
- CT** - Colesterol Total
- DCV** - Doença Cardiovascular
- DGF** - Delayed Graft Function
- DM** - Diabetes Mellitus
- DMPT** - Diabetes mellitus pós-transplante
- DRC** - Doença Renal Crônica
- GODT** - Global Observatory on Donation and Transplantation
- HCV** - Hepatitis C
- HDL** - High Density Lipoprotein
- LDL** - Low Density Lipoprotein
- MDRD** - Modification of Diet in Renal Disease
- MESH** - Medical Subject Heading
- MOOSE** - Meta-analysis of Observational Studies in Epidemiology
- MS** - Metabolic Syndrome
- NODAT** - New Onset Diabetes After Transplantation
- OMS** - Organização Mundial da Saúde
- PCR** - Polymerase chain reaction

PTDM - Post-transplant Diabetes Mellitus

RBT - Registro Brasileiro de Transplante de Órgãos

TFG - Taxa de Filtração Glomerular

TG - Triglicerídeos

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1. INTRODUÇÃO

O transplante renal é reconhecido como o melhor tratamento de substituição renal, apresentando melhor custo-efetividade para pacientes com Doença Renal Crônica (DRC) em estágio cinco (1,2). Quando bem sucedido, proporciona aos pacientes melhora na qualidade de vida e diminuição da mortalidade, principalmente decorrente de eventos cardiovasculares (infarto agudo do miocárdio, acidente vascular cerebral e insuficiência cardíaca), em comparação com outros métodos de depuração artificial do sangue (hemodiálise e diálise peritoneal), contribuindo assim, para o aumento da expectativa de vida destes pacientes (3-6).

Esta terapia substitutiva apresenta números crescentes nas últimas décadas (3). Dados do *Global Observatory on Donation and Transplantation* (GODT), que engloba 102 países que realizam transplante renal, registraram que este é o tipo de transplante mais realizado em detrimento aos outros órgãos sólidos, seguido de fígado e coração, conforme observado na figura 1 (7).

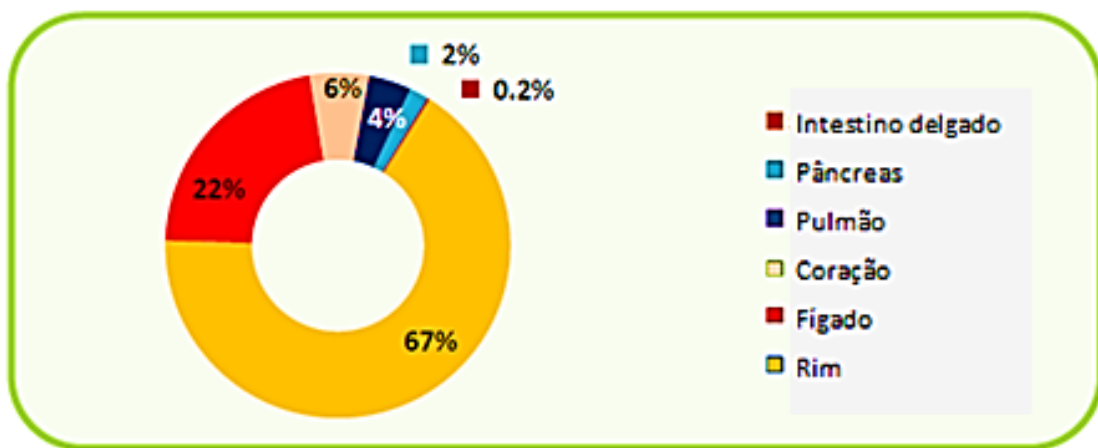


Figura 1. Porcentagem de órgãos transplantados em 2015. Adaptado da GODT, 2017.

Em relação à porcentagem de transplante renal de cada país, a Espanha é o país que mais realiza este procedimento (63%), seguido da Holanda (57%) e Estados Unidos (56,5%). O Brasil encontra-se na posição de número 37. Na figura 2, pode-se observar que a

Organização Mundial da Saúde (OMS) distribuiu a realização de transplantes renais por regiões, sendo a Europa a região que mais realiza este tipo de terapia substitutiva (7).

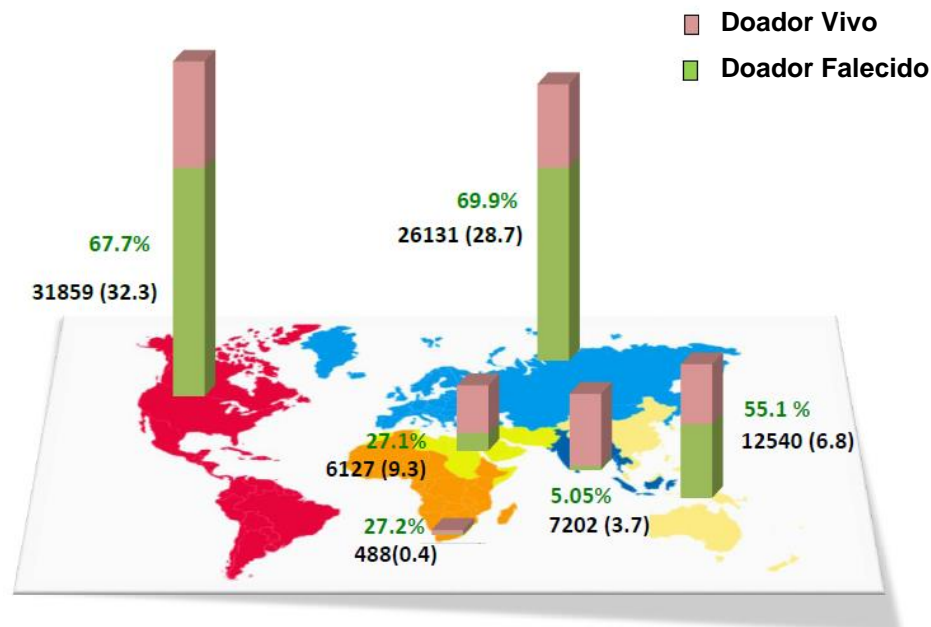


Figura 2. Distribuição de transplantes de rim entre as regiões da OMS em 2015.

Adaptado da GODT, 2017.

Segundo a Associação Brasileira de Transplantes de Órgãos (ABTO), em 2016, foram registrados 7.955 transplantes, incluindo rim, fígado, coração, pâncreas e pulmão. Desses, 5.492 (69%) foram referentes ao transplante renal. Em números absolutos por doadores de rim, 1.200 transplantes foram realizados com rins de doadores vivos e 4.292, de doadores falecidos (8). De Janeiro a Setembro de 2017 foram realizados 4.429 transplantes renais no país (9).

Com a evolução da terapia imunossupressora antirrejeição, os desfechos pós-transplante renal melhoraram significativamente nos últimos anos, aumentando a sobrevida do paciente e do enxerto (10-12). No entanto, estes indivíduos tendem a sofrer alterações do estado nutricional, independentemente do estado nutricional pré-transplante (1).

Estudos demonstram que, aproximadamente, 50% dos pacientes apresentam ganho de peso após a realização de transplante renal (13-15). Esse ganho pode variar entre 5 e 10% do peso inicial, podendo atingir até 20% (13,16-19). Em relação a números absolutos, pode-se observar um ganho médio de seis a dez quilogramas durante o primeiro ano pós-transplante (20,21). Estas mudanças no peso corporal podem ocasionar desenvolvimento de diabetes melito pós-transplante, hipertensão arterial sistêmica, dislipidemia e síndrome metabólica, fatores esses associados a aumento do risco de doenças cardiovasculares (22-26). Além disso, a obesidade pode estar associada à comorbidades que pioram o estado geral do paciente, como por exemplo, a função tardia do enxerto e a perda do enxerto (22).

O ganho do peso corporal e as suas consequências metabólicas adversas estão associados a piores desfechos após o transplante renal. Uma revisão sistemática com metanálise demonstrou que a presença de obesidade, definida segundo a OMS como $IMC \geq 30$ kg/m², antes do transplante renal está associada ao desenvolvimento de disfunção precoce do enxerto (DGF) (23). Por outro lado, a presença de síndrome metabólica (definida pela presença de pelo menos três dos seguintes critérios: circunferência abdominal >102 cm para homens e >88 cm para mulheres, glicemia >110 mg/dl ou DM prévio, triglicérides >150 mg/dl, Colesterol HDL <40 mg/dl para homens e >50 mg/dl para mulheres e, pressão arterial sistólica >130 mmHg ou pressão arterial diastólica >85 mmHg) após o transplante renal foi associada com maior risco de eventos cardiovasculares e mortalidade cardiovascular (25).

O aumento de peso em pacientes transplantados renais é comum tanto para pacientes obesos quanto para não obesos e, ocorre devido ao aumento de água e gordura corporal (27). Este aumento pode ser influenciado pela idade do paciente, pelo sexo e etnia, e pelo tipo de doador, ou seja, receptores de doadores vivos tendem a um aumento de peso mais significativo (21,28-31). Além disso, os fatores ambientais, como o excesso da ingestão

alimentar e o sedentarismo, além de fatores psicológicos, também podem estar envolvidos no ganho de peso corporal pós-transplante (21,32).

Além desses fatores classicamente associados a alterações de peso na população em geral, os pacientes submetidos ao transplante renal podem apresentar outros, como uso de imunossupressores/corticóides e perda de massa muscular durante o período de catabolismo que caracteriza o pós-transplante imediato (33,34). Aliados a estes, ainda existem outros potenciais indutores de ganho de peso nestes pacientes que não foram adequadamente estudados, sendo um exemplo as alterações na microbiota intestinal após o transplante.

A microbiota intestinal é composta predominantemente por bactérias, as quais encontram um meio favorável para a sua proliferação e diversificação das espécies (35,36). As comunidades microbianas intestinais podem exercer funções benéficas para seus hospedeiros que podem ser divididas em: biológica, exercendo função de barreira contra micro-organismos patogênicos; imunomoduladora, estimulando o sistema imune local e sistêmico; e, por fim, funções metabólicas e nutricionais, envolvendo a fermentação de alimentos e produção de nutrientes (36-38).

Pacientes obesos da população em geral apresentam modificações na microbiota intestinal quando comparados com indivíduos saudáveis e essas modificações vêm sendo implicadas na patogênese desta condição clínica (39). Poucos estudos avaliaram a microbiota intestinal em pacientes transplantados. Após o transplante renal ocorre uma diminuição na diversidade de bactérias intestinais e alguns filos, como os Firmicutes e Bacterioides, que usualmente são abundantes, e estes filos encontram-se diminuídos em casos de rejeição aguda e infecções urinárias e do trato respiratório (40-43). As alterações na microbiota intestinal que ocorrem após transplantes de órgãos sólidos podem ter um efeito no peso corporal após o procedimento.

Dessa forma, devido à importância da identificação de fatores associados ao ganho de peso nos pacientes submetidos ao transplante renal, esta dissertação tem os seguintes objetivos:

1. determinar quais fatores estão associados ao ganho de peso após o transplante renal em uma coorte de pacientes submetidos a este tipo de transplante em um centro transplantador do Sul do Brasil (artigo 1);

2. avaliar, por meio de uma revisão sistemática da literatura, se existem estudos que avaliaram alterações na microbiota intestinal após o transplante de órgãos sólidos e quais desfechos estão implicados com estas modificações, incluindo alterações no peso corporal dos pacientes transplantados (artigo 2).

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3. ARTIGO 1 – ORIGINAL

Factors associated with weight gain after kidney transplantation: a cohort study

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Abstract

Introduction: increased body weight, commonly observed after kidney transplantation, may be associated with worse outcomes in recipients. It is important to identify factors associated with weight gain after transplant in order to implement preventive interventions.

Objective: to identify predictors of one-year weight gain after renal transplantation.

Methods: a retrospective cohort study was conducted with 374 patients submitted to kidney transplantation in Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre between January, 2006 and July, 2013. Clinical and laboratory variables were collected from electronic records and the outcome of interest was weight gain during the first year after renal transplantation. For statistical analysis we used SPSS software and a p-value <0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results: There were 181 (48.4%) female patients, 334 (89.3%) with white ethnicity and the mean age was 44.4 ± 12.8 years. The mean BMI pre-transplant was 24.7 ± 4.1 kg/m², and 35 (9.9%) patients were classified as obese; 119 (33.6%) as overweight; 187 (52.8%) as normal weight; and 13 (3.7%) as malnutrition. After one year of follow-up, the mean BMI was 26.2 ± 5.0 kg/m², 61 (17.3%) patients were classified as obese; 133 (37.8%) as overweight; 148 (42.0%) as normal weight; and 10 (2.8%) as malnutrition. Weight gain was observed in 272 (72.7%) patients, and the average increase was 7.12 ± 5.9 kg. Patients who gained more than 5% of body weight during the first year post-transplant were more frequently females, and had lower body weight at baseline. In addition, they received a kidney from a living donor more frequently, and had a lower need for hospitalizations.

Conclusion: The female gender, lower pre-transplant body weight, lower number of hospitalizations and a kidney received from a living donor were associated with weight gain more than 5% in the first year post-transplant. The identification of risk factors for post-transplant weight gain is an important element when planning effective interventions to prevent weight gain and its consequences.

Keyword: kidney transplantation, weight gain, outcomes

Introduction

Renal transplantation is considered the best renal replacement therapy for patients with end-stage renal disease, since it enhances quality of life and patient survival when compared to other therapies, such as hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis¹⁻⁵. The number of solid organ transplants is increasing over the decades, mainly due to a rise in the amount of kidney transplants performed⁶.

Faced with increased graft and patient survival after renal transplantation in recent decades, concerns about the quality of life of renal transplant recipients have been raised. Several factors have been associated with increased cardiovascular risk in renal transplant post operative period, such as the development of post-transplant diabetes mellitus (PTDM), hypertension, dyslipidemia and obesity⁷⁻⁹. Approximately 50% of these patients gain weight after renal transplantation, regardless of pre-transplant nutritional status¹⁰⁻¹². In our center, patients submitted to renal transplantation gain a mean of 2.9 kg within in one year of follow-up and 6.5 kg after five years, which represents 5.1% and 10.6% of body weight, respectively^{13,14}. Factors such as ethnicity, correction of uremia, use of corticosteroids, increased food intake and sedentary lifestyle may be involved in the increase in body mass index (BMI) after renal transplantation¹⁵⁻²⁰.

Increased body weight and its negative metabolic consequences may be associated with worse outcomes after renal transplantation²¹. In a systematic review and meta-analysis conducted by our group, the diagnosis of metabolic syndrome after renal transplantation was associated with increased risk for graft loss, cardiovascular mortality and all-cause mortality²¹.

Therefore, the identification of factors associated with weight gain in renal transplant patients may contribute to the implementation of preventive and therapeutic measures to avoid weight increase and its consequences. Thus, the aim of this study was to identify predictors of one-year weight gain after renal transplantation.

Patients and Methods

This retrospective cohort study assessed renal transplant patients, attending the Nephrology Division of the Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, from January, 2006 to July, 2013. The study was approved by the Hospital Ethics Committee (protocol nº. 130051), in accordance with the ethical standards for human research set forth in

the Declaration of Helsinki²². All the researchers involved signed the Term of Commitment for the use of Data for research purposes, maintaining confidential information from patient registry.

The exclusion criteria were the following: age less than 18 years old, incomplete weight data pre-transplant and at 12 months post-transplantation, transplantation of multiple organs, less than one year of follow-up after transplantation, pre-transplantation diabetes mellitus - DM (diagnosed by the American Diabetes Association criteria)²³ and re-transplantation in the first year after transplantation.

Data were retrospective collected, and a structured questionnaire evaluated the following variables: age at transplant, gender, ethnicity, pre-transplant dry weight, etiology of renal disease, dialysis type (hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis) and duration, donor type (living or deceased) and gender, presence of HCV or cytomegalovirus (CMV) antibodies, diagnosis of delayed graft function (DGF), and PTDM. The types of immunosuppressant medications in the first year post-transplantation were collected, as well as the cumulative doses of the prednisone. The estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) was calculated using the MDRD formula²⁴.

Anthropometric evaluation consisted of body weight (in kg) and height (in meters) measurements with patients wearing light clothes and without shoes, and BMI [calculated with the weight (kg)/height² (m) ratio]²⁵. Weight was assessed pre-transplant (dry weight), at three, six and 12 months after transplant. The BMI classification was based on cut-off points proposed by the World Health Organization²⁵: low weight (BMI <18.5 kg/m²); normal weight (BMI 18.5-24.9 kg/m²); overweight (BMI 25.0-29.9 kg/m²); obesity grade I (BMI 30.0-34.9 kg/m²); obesity grade II (BMI 35.0-39.9 kg/m²) and obesity grade III (BMI ≥ 40.0 kg/m²).

Lipid profile (total cholesterol, HDL-cholesterol and triglycerides) and fasting glucose available at dialysis centers from the pre-transplant period were collected by medical charts review. Post-transplant information was collected by review of electronic charts.

The sample size calculation was performed with WinPepi software, based on the study by Cashion et al (2014)¹⁷, which evaluated demographic, clinical and environmental factors associated with weight gain in the post-transplant period. A sample size of 258 subjects was needed considering a power of 90%, level of significance of 5%, an increase in body weight of at least 4 kg in one year of follow-up.

Data were analyzed using the statistical software package *Statistical Package for the Social Sciences* (SPSS Inc., version 22.0 for Windows, Chicago, IL, EUA) and were reported as mean ± standard deviation, median (interquartile range) or number of subjects (%) with the

specified variable. The association between categorical variables was assessed by chi-square and the differences between continuous variables were evaluated by ANOVA. To analyze the contribution of the factors related to the outcomes of interest, multiple logistic regression models were used, the independent variables were chosen according to the univariate analysis or their biological relevance in relation to the outcome. Statistical significance was set at a P value of less than 0.05 for all the analysis.

Results

Were initially evaluated 445 patients submitted to kidney transplantation between January 2006 and July 2013. Of these, 71 were excluded (<18 years old, n = 1; pre-transplant DM, n = 4; and incomplete weight data, n = 66). A total of 374 kidney transplant recipients were evaluated. There were 181 (48.4%) female patients, 334 (89.3%) with white ethnicity and the mean age was 44.4 ± 12.8 years. In relation to the etiology of renal disease, 128 (34.2%) patients had undetermined etiology, 106 (28.3%) hypertension, 61 (16.3%) glomerulonephritis, 53 (14.2%) polycystic kidney disease and 26 (7%) other causes. The dialysis type was hemodialysis in 351 (93.9%) patients, with a median duration of 2.66 (1.33-5.16) years. The mean BMI pre-transplant was 24.7 ± 4.1 kg/m², and 35 (9.9%) patients were classified as obese; 119 (33.6%) as overweight; 187 (52.8%) as normal weight; and 13 (3.7%) as malnutrition. After one year of follow-up, the mean BMI was 26.2 ± 5.0 kg/m², 61 (17.3%) patients were classified as obese; 133 (37.8%) as overweight; 148 (42.0%) as normal weight; and 10 (2.8%) as malnutrition.

Weight gain was observed in 272 (72.7%) patients, and the average amount gained was 7.12 ± 5.9 kg. Among patients with weight gain, 195 (71.6%) subjects had an increase of at least 5% in body weight, and 117 (43.0%) increased at least 10% from baseline.

Patients were separated into different groups based on its respective weight variation at one year of follow-up. One-hundred ninety five (52.1%) of total sample gained more than 5% of weight, 131 (35%) presented minor weight change (between 5% gain or 5% lost), and 48 (12.8%) patients lost more than 5% of body weight. Table 1 shows demographic, nutritional, clinical, and biochemical measures according to these three groups. Patients who gained more than 5% of body weight were younger, more frequently females, had a lower body weight at baseline, and were more commonly CMV positive. In addition, the >5% gain weight group received more frequently a kidney from a living donor, had a lower need for

hospitalization, lower rate of DGF and PTDM, and higher eGFR at all times than the other groups.

A multivariate model was built with >5% gain of body weight as the dependent variable and age at transplant, sex, pre-transplant weight, PTDM and rate of hospitalization as the independent ones (Table 2, Model 1). Female gender remained as a risk factor for weight gain; while increased age at transplant, higher pre-transplant weight and number of hospitalizations were protect factors against weight gain. In this model, PTDM was not associated with weight gain post-transplant. As receiving a kidney from a living donor, DGF and hospitalization rate are closely related, these three variables were not included in the same model. Separate models were constructed changing hospitalization rate for the other two variables. The model including DGF showed similar results, however DGF was not associate with weight gain and PTDM diagnosis was associated with protection against weight gain (Model 2). When living donor was included in the model (Model 3), female gender and pre-transplant body weight remain with similar associations. Living donor was associated with increased risk for weight gain, and PTDM was a protector factor. In this model, transplant age lost the association.

Discussion

In this retrospective cohort study conducted in a large tertiary care, university-affiliated hospital in southern Brazil, a high prevalence (52.1%) was observed in patients who gained more than 5% in the first year after renal transplantation. There was a significant association between greater weight gain and youngest age, female gender, lower BMI pre-transplant, CMV positive sorology, donor type (living), and lower number of hospitalizations. In addition, DGF, and PTDM were observed in a lower frequency in this group, as well as eGFR was higher 3, 6 and 12 months post-transplant. Most importantly, female gender, and lower pre-transplant body weight were independently associated with 5% weight gain after adjustments in different multivariate models. Receiving a kidney from a living donor and lower need for hospitalization were also associated with higher weight gain, probably reflecting a patient with a lower rate of post-transplant complications.

Weight gain is very often observed in kidney transplant recipients, especially during the first 12 months after transplant. In our study, 31.2% and 20.9% of the total sample gained at least 10% and 5% of body weight, respectively, after the first year of transplantation. The results found herein are consistent with previous studies^{17,26}.

We identified two factors as independently predictors for weight gain $\geq 5\%$ from baseline to 12 months post-transplant in all multivariate models: female gender and lower pre-transplant weight. Other studies corroborated our findings. Female gender is a known risk factor for weight gain after renal transplant^{27,28}. In a cohort study, weight gain one year post-transplant was significantly higher in women (13.6 kg) than in men (11.0kg, $p < 0.005$)²⁹. Pre-transplant weight is an important factor to be considered when dealing with kidney transplant patients, since a systematic review and meta-analysis performed by our group demonstrated that the presence of obesity before renal transplantation is associated with a higher chance of early graft dysfunction²⁰.

So, the pattern of weight gain post-transplant would be even more relevant in previous overweight or obese subjects. Two recent studies reported that 29% and 38% of patient on the waitlist for renal transplantation were diagnosed as overweight or obese^{30,31}. In our study, the prevalence of overweight or obesity pre-transplantation was even higher, about 43.5%, reaching a prevalence of 55.1% at 12 months post-transplantation. However, the weight gain was lower in this subset of patients, as the group of patients that gained more than 5% of body weight had a lower pre-transplant BMI. Similar results are reported by Baum et al. Initial BMI above 25 kg/m² predicted less weight gain 12 months post-transplant in a non-African American population²⁹. The lower weight gain in overweight and obese transplant recipients may result from nutritional counseling that these patients could have received due to their increased BMI pre-transplant. However, this statement is merely speculative, since data on nutrition interventions were not reported in previous studies and was not collect in our cohort. A possible nutritional intervention may be an explanation also for the opposite association between PTDM and post-transplant weight gain.

Age at transplant was a protector factor for weight gain in some of our study multivariate models. Renal recipients younger than 30 years old had greater weight increase after kidney transplant than patients who are older than 50 years old in previous studies^{32,10}. According to data from National Health and Nutritional Examination Survey III (NHANES III), the impact of age and sex is consistent with patterns of obesity in general population³³, as both factors are associated with higher prevalence of obesity.

Regarding the association of body weight gain and modifications in glomerular filtration rate, the literature results are still controversial. An observational cohort study of 84 patients observed a negative correlation between changes in BMI and eGFR³⁴. The increase in BMI during the first year after kidney transplantation caused a significant decline in renal function, especially in the first three months post-transplant. On the other hand, a

retrospective study with 165 renal transplant patients observed that that patients who gained weight had increased eGFR (71.8 ± 20.3 vs. 77.4 ± 23.3 ml/min/1.73m², $p < 0.01$) and patients who lost weight had a decrease in renal function (66.4 ± 23.1 vs. 61.5 ± 24.5 ml/min/1.73m², $p < 0.01$) six months post-transplantation³⁵. A third trial, including 1094 patients, lead to discrepant results and authors concluded that the association between changes in body weight and renal function varies according to the method used to estimate GFR and future studies must be conducted to investigate this association³⁶. In our cohort, DGF was not independently associated with post-transplant body weight changes.

To date, no other study have reported an association between the number of hospitalizations and weight variations after kidney transplant. However, it is suggested that fewer hospitalizations are associated with less postoperative complications and better graft and patient survival³⁷. Lower hospitalization rate may be a marker of better overall good health, so patients with less transplant related complications would be hospitalized less frequently and have a better eGFR. In this sense, the association among number of hospitalization and eGFR with higher post-transplant weight gain probably is not of cause and effect. The same rationally may be the explanation why recipients from living donors, which are less prone to complications and with a better overall health status, gain more weight. Improvements in well-being might lead to greater appetite and consequently increased body weight.

This study has some limitations, mainly related to the retrospective design. We did not evaluate variables such as body composition, dietary intake, physical activity, schooling and family income which might be important factors associated with body weight post-transplant. However, despite these limitations, the study reaches its goal to show predictors of weight gain after renal transplant.

In conclusion, female gender and lower pre-transplant body weight were independently associated with weight gain more than 5% in the first year post kidney transplant. Lower rate of hospitalization and donation from a living donor were also risk factors for this outcome. Patients with the described characteristics should be closely followed to avoid excessive weight gain after kidney transplant. included in randomized clinical trials to receive nutritional counseling Randomized clinical trials should be conducted to evaluate if nutritional preventive interventions are capable to minimized body weight gain in these populations.

Table 1: Patients characteristics at baseline according to body weight change one year after kidney transplantation.

Variables	Weight loss >5% (n=48)	Weight change between <5% and >5% (n=131)	Weight gain >5% (n=195)	P
Patient related				
Age (mean/SD)*	47.6 ± 13.8 ^a	46.2 ± 12.4 ^a	42.4 ± 12.5 ^b	0.006
Female gender, n (%)†	24 (50.0) ^{ab}	47 (35.9) ^a	110 (56.4) ^b	<0.001
Caucasian, n (%)†	44 (91.7)	117 (89.3)	173 (88.7)	0.747
Pre-transplant weight, kg (mean/SD)*	69.2 ± 10.9 ^a	70.4 ± 13.2 ^a	64.2 ± 12.2 ^b	<0.001
BMI pre-transplant, kg/m ² *	25.9 ± 3.4 ^a	25.1 ± 3.9 ^{ab}	24.2 ± 4.3 ^b	0.016
BMI post-transplant, kg/m ² *	23.2 ± 3.4 ^a	25.3 ± 4.1 ^b	27.7 ± 5.5 ^c	<0.001
HCV, n (%)†	42 (87.5)	121 (92.4)	178 (91.3)	0.595
CMV, n (%)†	38 (79.2) ^a	95 (72.5) ^a	166 (85.6) ^b	0.015
Biochemical tests, mg/dL				
Total Cholesterol pre-transplant (mean/SD)*	176.3 ± 46.5	174.0 ± 43.4	165.2 ± 40.6	0.287
HDL-cholesterol pre-transplant (mean/SD)*	40.8 ± 14.7	38.9 ± 12.9	41.7 ± 12.4	0.383
LDL-cholesterol pre-transplant (mean/SD)*	100.7 ± 32.8	99.9 ± 33.9	98.9 ± 34.4	0.970
Triglycerides pre-transplant (median/percentiles)**	146.5 (107.0-230.0)	172 (106.0-242.0)	141 (104.0-189.5)	0.107
Glucose pre-transplant (mean/SD)*	95.7 ± 10.5	100.1 ± 49.5	92.6 ± 20.5	0.308
Glucose post-transplant	94.6 ± 17.3	90.3 ± 20.77	92.1 ± 20.3	0.663

Transplant related				
Donor type, living, n (%)†	9.0 (18.8) ^a	27.0 (20.6) ^a	71.0 (36.4) ^b	0.002
Number of hospitalizations (median/percentiles)**	1.0 (0.0-3.0) ^a	1.0 (0.0-2.0) ^a	1.0 (0.0-2.0) ^b	0.002
DGF, n (%)†	30 (63.8) ^a	74 (56.5) ^{ab}	87 (44.8) ^b	0.022
PTDM, n (%)†	13 (27.1) ^{ab}	45 (34.4) ^a	34 (17.4) ^b	0.002
Acute Rejection, n (%)†	25 (52.1)	87 (66.4)	129 (66.2)	0.160
MDRD 3 months (median/percentiles)**	33.5 (20.2-48.0) ^a	37.0 (24.0-50.0) ^a	48.0 (35.5-60.0) ^b	<0.001
MDRD 6 months (median/percentiles)**	39.5 (27.2-56.7) ^a	42.0 (32.5-52.2) ^a	49.0 (30.8-60.0) ^b	<0.001
MDRD 12 months (median/percentiles)**	39.0 (23.0-60.0) ^a	46.0 (35.0-59.0) ^b	52.0 (40.0-60.0) ^c	<0.001
Prednisone, n (%)†	48 (100)	126 (96.2)	189 (96.9)	0.176
Cumulative Prednisone dose (mg) (median/percentiles)**	21.300 (14.600-25.000)	21.600 (16.500-24.600)	22.100 (15.500-25.800)	0.739
Daily dose of prednisone (mg)	58.35	59.17	60.54	
Tacrolimus, n (%)†	40.0 (83.3)	96 (73.3)	156.0 (80.0)	0.129
Cyclosporine, n (%)†	4.0 (8.3)	28.0 (21.4)	31.0 (15.9)	0.156

DGF = Delayed Graft Function, PTDM = Diabetes Mellitus post-transplant, HCV = Hepatitis C, CMV = cytomegalovirus, MDRD = Modification of Diet in Renal Disease.

*ANOVA **ANOVAlog †Chi-Squared

Table 2: Multiple logistic regression analysis for weight gain > 5% (dependent variable) in first year post-transplant.

	Multiple regression	β (95% IC)	P value
Model 1	Gender (female)	1.681 (1.06 – 2.66)	0.027
	Pre-transplant weight	0.971 (0.95 – 0.99)	0.003
	Transplant age	0.982 (0.96 – 0.99)	0.042
	PTDM	0.617 (0.36 – 1.04)	0.72
	Number of hospitalizations	0.790 (0.66 – 0.93)	0.007
Model 2	Gender (female)	1.712 (1.08 – 2.71)	0.022
	Pre-transplant weight	0.977 (0.95 – 0.99)	0.015
	Transplant age	0.983 (0.96 – 1.00)	0.049
	PTDM	0.538 (0.31 – 0.90)	0.020
	DGF	0.664 (0.43 – 1.02)	0.065
Model 3	Gender (female)	1.733 (1.09 – 2.75)	0.020
	Pre-transplant weight	0.974 (0.95 – 0.99)	0.006
	Transplant age	0.989 (0.97 – 1.01)	0.266
	PTDM	0.540 (0.32 – 0.91)	0.021
	Living donor	2.122 (1.26 – 3.57)	0.005

PTDM = Diabetes Mellitus post-transplant; DGF = Delayed Graft Function

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4. ARTIGO 2 – REVISÃO SISTEMÁTICA

Intestinal microbiota changes after solid organ transplant: a systematic review.

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Abstract

Introduction: The intestinal microbiota may undergo changes after solid organ transplantation. The purpose of this systematic review was to characterize the intestinal microbiota of patients undergoing solid organ transplantation.

Methods: MEDLINE, EMBASE and Cochrane Library databases were searched from inception to July 21, 2017. Studies of patients undergoing solid organ transplantation that evaluated changes in intestinal microbiota composition and one of the following outcomes were included: post-transplant weight, new onset diabetes after transplantation, delayed graft function, acute rejection, graft and patient survival, and post-transplant infections.

Results: Out of 765 studies found in this search, two studies (86 patients) fulfilled inclusion criteria. Both studies assessed kidney transplantation recipients, and a reduction in bacterial species diversity after transplantation was observed. Changes in intestinal microbiota were associated with acute rejection in both studies. One study reported diarrhea and urinary infections, while the other one reported urinary and respiratory infections. None of them reported other outcomes of interest.

Conclusion: Changes in intestinal microbiota were observed after kidney transplantation, and they were associated with higher incidence of acute rejection and infections in transplant recipients. However, data are still scarce and more studies are needed to evaluate if microbiota changes have an impact on post-transplant outcomes.

Key words: transplantation, intestinal microbiota, outcomes.

Introduction

The intestinal microbiota is composed mainly by bacteria, which find a favorable environment for proliferation. Deregulation of intestinal mucosal homeostasis leads to the development of diseases and detrimental conditions to the host^{1,2}. These intestinal microbial communities perform some beneficial functions to their hosts, which are divided into three levels: (1) biological, as barriers against pathogenic microorganisms; (2) immunomodulatory, as a stimulus to the local and systemic immune system; and, finally, (3) nutritional and metabolic, involving the fermentation of food products and production of nutrients³⁻⁶.

Changes in the intestinal microbiota have been reported in individuals with obesity and/or metabolic syndrome (MS)⁷⁻⁹. Obesity development is associated with specific phylum of bacteria inhabiting the human gut^{8,10,11}. Thus, obese individuals may have a higher proportion of Firmicutes and a lower proportion of Bacteroides compared with individuals with healthy weight⁸. Furthermore, some authors have suggested that treatments with emphasis on balancing gut microbiota may be an alternative for obesity treatment⁷⁻⁹. Regarding MS, the intestinal microbiota has an important role in metabolic balance, affecting the absorption of glucose and lipids and intestinal motility⁷.

Conversely, the intestinal microbiota may influence solid organ transplant outcomes. The gut microbiota of organ transplant recipients is expected to undergo changes in its composition, as the majority of patients use antibiotics as prophylaxis or treatment of infections during initial hospitalization¹²⁻¹⁶. Since changes in the gut microbiota are associated with metabolic disarrangements in both the obese and the MS population, as described above⁷⁻⁹, similar effects might be observed in organ transplant recipients. Advances in immunosuppressive therapy have improved post-transplant outcomes in recent decades, increasing both graft and patient survival¹⁷⁻¹⁹. However, organ transplant recipients continue to show higher mortality than the general population, and this fact is directly related to the increased incidence of cardiovascular disease in the post-transplant period^{17,20-26}. Several factors have been associated with increased cardiovascular risk after transplantation, especially the development of MS²⁷⁻³¹. It is known that weight gain is significant in transplanted patients, affecting 30-50% of these individuals³²⁻³⁴. In addition, both obesity and MS are associated with worse outcomes after transplant³⁴⁻³⁶.

Few studies have evaluated the composition of the intestinal microbiota in organ transplant recipients. Thus, the objective of this systematic review was to characterize the

intestinal microbiota in patients undergoing solid organ transplantation and its possible associations with post-transplant outcomes.

Methods

Data sources and searches

All studies were found using Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) and entry terms (Supplemental file) while searching MEDLINE (via PubMed), EMBASE and Cochrane Library databases, as well as gray literature (conference abstracts), from inception to July 21, 2017. All relevant articles were considered for review regardless of language.

Study Selection

Studies assessing changes in the gut microbiota of transplanted patients (kidney, liver, lung, pancreas or heart transplantation) were included. Bacterial species diversity was defined according to the Shannon index, which analyzes the diversity of categorical data considering heterogeneity, variety, complexity and abundance of bacterial species in the microbiota³⁷.

Studies with replicated data or pediatric patients were excluded, as well as studies that assessed database populations. Two independent investigators performed study selection, initially by titles and abstracts, and subsequently by full-text assessment. Disagreements were resolved by consensus or a third investigator.

Data Extraction and Quality Assessment

Data extraction was performed by two investigators according to the following data: author's name, year of publication, number of patients included, length of follow-up, demographic characteristics, number of fecal samples, microbiota features and the following post-transplant outcomes: post-transplant weight gain, new-onset diabetes after transplantation (NODAT), delayed graft function (DGF), acute rejection, graft and patient survival, and post-transplant infections (urinary tract, respiratory and intestinal infections). Both reviewers were not blinded to authors, institutions or article journals. The quality of studies was assessed using the Newcastle Quality Assessment Scale³⁸. An overall score of 5 or less was considered low quality; 6 to 7 was considered moderate quality; and 8 to 9 was

considered high quality. This systematic review is described according to Meta-analysis of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (MOOSE) guidelines³⁹.

Results

Database search identified 765 studies. Of these, 48 studies were duplicated and 680 studies were excluded after an analysis of titles and abstracts. The remaining 37 studies were selected for full-text assessment, and only two of them fulfilled eligibility criteria (Figure 1). Both studies have evaluated the gut microbiota and kidney transplant. Table 1 shows demographic characteristics of the patients included in these studies and Table 2 shows the quality of the studies. Main results are described below.

Lee et al.⁴⁰ have assessed 85 fecal samples of 26 kidney transplant recipients. Samples were collected during the first 3 months after transplantation and accounted at least two per patient. The fecal microbial composition was identified by polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Reduced bacterial species diversity, according to the Shannon index, and increased amounts of Proteobacteria were found in post-transplant fecal samples compared with pre-transplant samples ($p = 0.04$). Three patients with acute rejection showed increased number of bacteria from the order Lactobacillales ($p = 0.04$) and a significant decrease in phylum Bacteroidetes ($p = 0.03$) compared with patients without acute rejection. Six patients developed diarrhea in the post-transplant period. These patients had decreased amounts of Bacteroidales, Bacteroidetes, Ruminococcus and Coprococcus compared with those without diarrhea ($p = 0.007$). Finally, patients with urinary tract infection ($n = 3$) showed increased frequency of the genus Enterococcus ($p = 0.005$).

Fricke et al.⁴¹ have evaluated 60 patients during the first 6 months after kidney transplant and the composition of fecal microbiota was evaluated by rectal swab. Bacterial species diversity, according to the Shannon index, decreased significantly in the first month after kidney transplant ($p = 0.01$), and this change was maintained until the assessment of the last sample at 6 months. Firmicutes phylum accounted for most bacteria observed in the microbiota of post-transplant patients. Individuals with acute rejection ($n = 4$) had a significant decrease in four bacterial groups, including Anaerotruncus, Coprobacillus, Coprococcus and an unknown member of the Peptostreptococcaceae ($p < 0.005$), compared with the 14 patients without acute rejection. Four patients had an episode of respiratory or urinary tract infection and a decrease in the amount of Firmicutes phylum, mainly from the genus Anaerotruncus ($p < 0.001$).

Discussion

This systematic review has revealed that the diversity of bacterial species decreases in the intestinal microbiota of kidney transplant recipients. These alterations in the number of bacteria from were associated with acute rejection, diarrhea and respiratory and urinary infections.

The human microbiota tends to change rapidly during childhood, when food is introduced, and more slowly in adult age³. The components of the human intestinal microbiota are constantly being modified by modern lifestyle. It is well known that factors such as host diet, age range, hygiene and use of antibiotics play a relevant role in shaping the intestinal microbiota^{5,42,43}.

Some key contributing factors are associated with intestinal microbiota changing patterns⁴⁴, and the use of antibiotics and immunosuppressive therapy are among the most relevant. These interventions are associated with decreased intestinal bacteria diversity and dysregulation of the immune system, and patients undergoing solid organ transplantation commonly use both. Antibiotic effects depend on composition, dosage, spectrum, route of administration and duration of treatment^{45,46}. These medications are not always harmless to the transplant patient and, in most cases, their frequent use is associated with intestinal dysbiosis and production of resistant pathogens¹².

A retrospective cohort study has reported a 50% incidence of infectious episodes in kidney transplant recipients during the first months after transplantation and concluded that the most frequent infection involved the urinary tract, followed by cytomegalovirus, surgical incision and lung infections⁴⁷. Lee et al.⁴⁸ have demonstrated that the most commonly used antibiotics for urinary infections are cefazolin and vancomycin. Kidney transplant recipients with infections tend to be older, to use more potent immunosuppression, to have received the graft from a deceased donor and to have had a longer time on dialysis⁴⁷. In addition, female gender, prolonged use of urinary catheter, retransplantation, cold ischemia time and DGF may be risk factors for urinary tract infections^{47,48}. Infections remain a recurring problem in transplanted patients, resulting in deaths with functioning graft and triggering complications that affect the quality of life of patients⁴⁹. Based on this information, the use of antibiotics is commonly required post-transplantation, and this may be the most important factor leading to microbiota changes in these patients.

The intestinal microbiota represents a stimulus for the development of the immune system, especially the establishment of lymphoid tissues, activation of neutrophils, induction

of IgA and regulation of homeostasis of intestinal T cells (regulatory T cell and T helper), which may interfere in the human susceptibility to infections and immune-mediated diseases^{50,51}. When altered, the microbiota shows a reduction in the number of bacteria that favor regulatory cells or an increase in the number of cells that help the induction of immune systems in response to pathogens, leading to infections and diseases in individuals⁵². This deviation from a more tolerant immune system to the activation of effector cells may be the link between post-transplant microbiota changes and acute rejection observed in one of the studies^{40,51}. However, further studies should be performed to evaluate the association of the intestinal microbiota with the mechanisms of infection development and acute rejection in transplant patients.

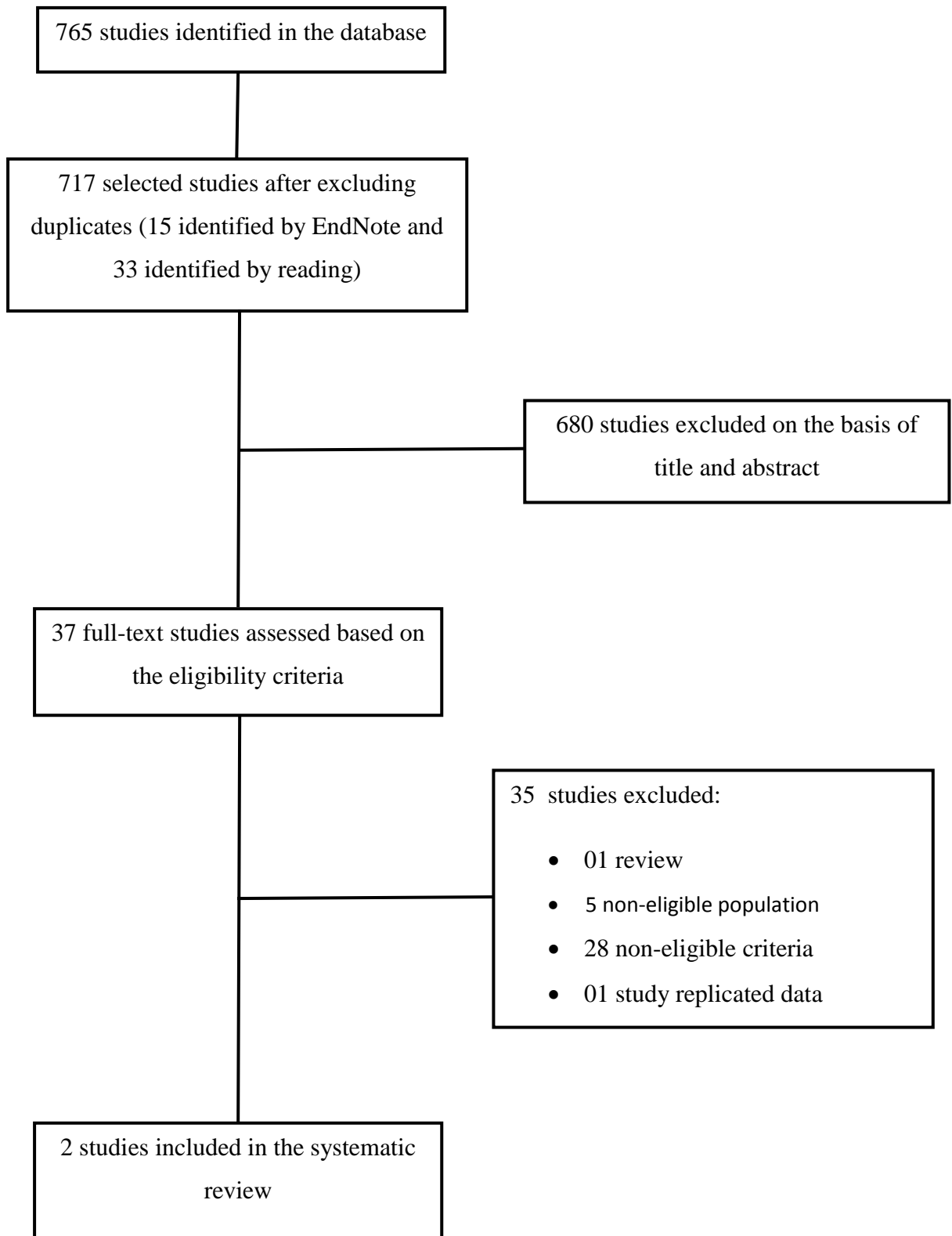
This systematic review has some limitations, including the scant number of studies assessing intestinal microbiota in patients after solid organ transplantation and their small sample size and clinical heterogeneity. Also, another clear limitation was the difference in the methods used in the studies for collecting microbiota samples.

Conclusion

Changes in the intestinal microbiota were observed after kidney transplantation, and they were associated with higher incidence of acute rejection and infections in recipients. However, data are still scarce and more studies are needed to evaluate if microbiota changes have an impact on other metabolic and graft-related post-transplant outcomes.

Supplemental file, Text 1. Medline Search Strategy

"Transplantation"[Mesh] OR "Transplantation" OR "Transplantations" OR "Recipient,
 Transplant" OR "Transplant Recipient" OR "Transplant Recipients" OR "Recipients,
 Transplant" OR "Organ Transplantation"[Mesh] OR "Transplantation, Organ" OR "Organ
 Transplantations" OR "Transplantations, Organ" OR "Grafting, Organ" OR "Graftings,
 Organ" OR "Organ Grafting" OR "Organ Graftings" OR "transplantation" [Subheading] OR
 "grafting" OR "grafts" OR "Transplantation, Heterotopic"[Mesh] OR "Heterotopic
 Transplantation" OR "Heterotopic Transplantations" OR "Transplantations, Heterotopic" OR
 "Kidney Transplantation"[Mesh] OR "Transplantation, Renal" OR "Renal Transplantation"
 OR "Renal Transplantations" OR "Transplantations, Renal" OR "Grafting, Kidney" OR
 "Kidney Grafting" OR "Transplantation, Kidney" OR "Kidney Transplantations" OR
 "Transplantations, Kidney" OR "Transplantation, Liver" OR "Liver Transplantations" OR
 "Transplantations, Liver" OR "Transplantation, Hepatic" OR "Grafting, Liver" OR
 "Graftings, Liver" OR "Liver Grafting" OR "Liver Graftings" OR "Hepatic Transplantation"
 OR "Hepatic Transplantations" OR "Transplantations, Hepatic" OR "Grafting, Lung" OR
 "Graftings, Lung" OR "Lung Grafting" OR "Lung Graftings" OR "Transplantation, Lung"
 OR "Lung Transplantations" OR "Transplantations, Lung" OR "Grafting, Heart" OR
 "Graftings, Heart" OR "Heart Grafting" OR "Heart Graftings" OR "Transplantation, Heart"
 OR "Heart Transplantations" OR "Transplantations, Heart" OR "Cardiac Transplantation"
 OR "Cardiac Transplantations" OR "Transplantations, Cardiac" OR "Transplantation,
 Cardiac" OR "Grafting, Pancreas" OR "Graftings, Pancreas" OR "Pancreas Grafting" OR
 "Pancreas Graftings" OR "Transplantation, Pancreas" OR "Pancreas Transplantations" OR
 "Transplantations, Pancreas" AND "Microbiotas" OR "Microbiome" OR "Microbiomes" OR
 "Human Microbiome" OR "Human Microbiomes" OR "Microbiomes, Human" OR
 "Microbiome, Human".



Supplemental file, Figure 1. Flowchart: identification and selection of articles included in the systematic review.

Supplemental file, Table 1. Patients characteristics of included studies.

General characteristics	Study	
	Lee JR et al ⁴⁰	Fricke WF et al ⁴¹
Transplant recipients, n (%)	26 (100)	60 (100)
Men, n (%)	13 (50)	38 (63)
Womem, n (%)	13 (50)	22 (37)
Age (years)	56 (46-63)	58 (30-79)
Etnicity		
White, n (%)	16 (61)	36 (60)
Hispanic, n (%)	6 (23)	0
African American, n (%)	4 (15)	24 (40)
Type of transplantation		
Living-donor, N (%)	14 (54)	N/A
Deceased donor, N (%)	12 (46)	N/A
Organ type		
Kidney, N (%)	24 (92)	N/A
Simultaneous pancreas and kidney, N (%)	2 (8)	N/A
Imunosupression with Tacrolimus	26 (100)	N/A
Perioperative antibiotics		
Cefazolin, n (%)	21 (81)	N/A
Vancomycin, n (%)	3 (11)	N/A
Ampicilin and Sulbactan, n (%)	2 (8)	N/A

N/A: Not available

Supplemental file, Table 2. Quality scoring based on the Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale

Study, Year (Ref)	Selection	Comparability	Outcome
Lee JR et al, 2014 ⁴⁰	***	-	****
Fricke WF et al, 2014 ⁴¹	****	-	****

Ref = reference; ^aStudy groups were controlled for age, gender and donor type in assessment of comparability, except for ethnicity.

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5. CONSIDERAÇÕES FINAIS

Os dados do artigo original (artigo 1) desta dissertação sugerem que o ganho de peso em pacientes submetidos ao transplante renal é crescente e significativo. Estas alterações no peso corporal podem ser influenciadas pelo sexo e peso pré-transplante. Além disso, fatores relacionados ao transplante como o tipo de doador (vivo *versus* falecido), número de hospitalizações, taxa de filtração glomerular e ausência de diabetes melito também podem contribuir para o ganho de peso nestes indivíduos.

Em relação ao artigo de revisão sistemática (artigo 2), observou-se que ocorrem alterações na microbiota intestinal dos pacientes submetidos ao transplante renal, porém a influência da microbiota no peso corporal de pacientes transplantados não foi avaliada na literatura disponível.

Os nossos resultados têm uma aplicação prática. As pacientes femininas e com IMC pré-transplante mais baixo devem ter o peso monitorado mais frequentemente e medidas preventivas para evitar ganho de peso excessivo devem ser implementadas. Mais estudos são necessários para determinar se estas medidas serão efetivas na prevenção do ganho de peso pós-transplante e que intervenções irão resultar em melhores desfechos para o paciente e para o enxerto renal. Ainda, são necessários estudos que avaliem a microbiota intestinal e sua possível relação com alterações de peso corporal após o transplante de órgãos sólidos.