

Evaluation of Heparin Anticoagulation Protocols in Post-Renal Transplant Recipients

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Summary: Disturbances in hemostasis are common in renal transplant recipients. There is currently limited literature on the safety and efficacy of heparin use in the early postoperative period. Retrospective review of 547 adult kidney transplant recipients between January 2008 to July 2013 at St. Paul's Hospital was conducted to identify the incidences of major bleeding and thrombosis in the therapeutic heparin cohort and to compare the incidences between the prophylactic and no heparin cohorts in the early post-renal transplant period. Major bleeding occurred in 46%, 3.0%, and 3.4% of therapeutic heparin (n=13), prophylactic heparin (n=266) and no heparin (n=268) cohorts, respectively. Thrombosis occurred in 0.4% and 1.1% of prophylactic heparin and no heparin cohorts, respectively. More patients had major bleed with low target heparin protocol but 61% of PTT values were above target. More deceased donor transplant recipients who bled were taking antiplatelet agents.