Table of Contents

List of Contributors X
Preface XI

The Selection and Preparation of Patients for Kidney Transplantation
J. F. MOORHEAD

I. Introduction 1
II. Preparative Dialysis and Care of the Shunt 2
A. Preparative Surgery 4
B. Nephrectomy 5
C. Hypertension 5
D. Pyelonephritis 7
E. Active Glomerulonephritis 7
F. Anaemia 8
G. Tissue Typing 10
III. Conclusions 11
Anaesthesia for Kidney Transplantation
J. D. ROBERTSON and G. W. STEPHEN

I. Excretion and Metabolism of Anaesthetic Drugs 15
II. Preparation of the Patient 18
A. Correction of Anaemia 18
B. The Treatment of Uraemia 19
C. Elimination of Infection 19
D. Blood Pressure Control 20
III. Choice of Anaesthesia 20
A. Anaesthesia for Arterio-Venous Shunts 20
B. Anaesthesia for Transplantation 22
C. Anaesthesia for Bilateral Nephrectomy 26
D. Anaesthesia for the Live Donor 26

Table of Contents VI

E. Post-Operative Period 26
F. Treatment of Emergencies 27
G. Viral Hepatitis 27
IV. Conclusion 27
V. References 28

Selection and Preparation of the Patient for Liver Transplantation
SHEILA SHERLOCK

I. Introduction 32
II. Selection of Patient 33
A. Malignant Tumours 33
B. Biliary Atresia 35
C. The Cirrhoses 35
D. Fulminant Viral Hepatitis 37
E. Glycogen Storage Disease 37
III. Preparation of the Patient 37
A. General Investigation 37
B. Special Methods of Determining Liver Size, Hepatic Vasculature and Biliary Anatomy 38
1. Liver Size 38
2. Biliary Anatomy 38
3. Portal Venography 39
4. Selective Hepatic and Superior Mesenteric Arteriography 39
C. Tissue Compatibility Tests 41
D. Control of Hepato-Cellular Failure 42
1. Bilirubin 42
2. Detoxication 42
3. Protein Synthesis 43
4. Coagulation Factors 44
5. Urea and Ammonia Metabolism 45
6. Carbohydrate Changes 46
7. Circulatory Changes 47
8. Electrolyte and Renal Changes 47
E. Methods of Temporary Hepatic Support 48
F. Control of Infection 49
G. Immunosuppressive Therapy 49
IV. Summary and Comment 50
V. References 50

Anaesthesia for Liver Transplantation
J. R. SAMUEL

I. Introduction 54
A. Scope and Indications 54
B. Anaesthetic Organisation 55

Table of Contents VII

II. Choice of Agents 56
A. General Remarks 56
B. Hepatotoxic Agents 56
C. The Effect of Liver Disease in the Recipient 57
D. The Effect of Diminished Function in the Graft 59
III. Recommended Anaesthetic Technique 59
1. Premedication 59
2. Induction 60
3. Maintenance 60
4. Reversal 60
IV. Monitors and Special Apparatus 61
A. Intravenous Infusions 61
B. Arterial Pressure Line 61
C. ECG 62
D. Temperature Control 62
E. Blood Loss and Fluid Balance 62
F. Urinary Catheter 62
G. Blood Investigations 62
V. Physiological Homeostasis 64
   A. Induction 64
   B. Dissection of the Recipients Liver 65
      1. Summary of Surgical Procedure 65
      2. Associated Physiological Disturbances and their Management 66
   C. Total Anhepatic Phase 68
      1. Surgery 68
      2. Associated Physiological Disturbances 69
   D. Partial Anhepatic Phase 70
      1. Surgery 70
      2. Physiological Disturbances and their Management 71
   E. Phase of Inferior Vena Cava Anastomosis 73
      1. Surgical Procedure 73
      2. Physiological Disturbances 73
   F. Biliary Anastomosis 74
      1. Surgery 74
      2. Physiological Disturbances 74
   G. Reversal of Paralysis and Resumption of Respiration 75
      1. Physiological Disturbances 75
   H. Heterotopic (Accessory) Transplantation 75

VI. Case Details and Results 79
VII. Acknowledgements 79
VIII. References 79

Anaesthesia for Transplantation of Heart, Lungs, Heart and Lungs
P. B. SABAWALA and A. S. KEATS

I. Introduction 83
II. Experimental Background 83

Table of Contents VIII

III. Physiological Performance of Transplanted Organs 85
   A. The Denervated Heart
      1. Experimental Animals 85
      2. Clinical Experience 86
   B. The Denervated Lung
      1. Experimental Work 87
      2. Clinical Experience 87
IV. Heart Transplant Survival Data 88
   1. Factors Influencing Survival 89
   2. Status of Donor Heart 89
3. Histocompatibility 90
4. Immunosuppression 90
5. Infections 90

V. General Principles of Management 90
1. Management of the Donor 91

VI. Anesthetic Management for Heart and Heart-Lung Transplants 93
1. General Principles 93
2. Anaesthesia for Patients with Denervated Hearts 99
3. Staged Cardiac Replacement 101
4. Cardiac Xenografts 104

VII. Anesthetic Management -- Lung Transplants 104

VIII. Conclusions 107

Death

B.B. MACGILLIVRAY

I. Introduction 113
II. The Nature of Death 115
III. Legal Considerations 116
IV. Cerebral Death -- Clinical Aspects 118
A. Patho-Physiological Considerations 118
1. Cerebral Anoxia 118
2. The Respirator Brain 119
3. The Patho-Physiology of Coma 120
B. Clinical Evaluation of Comatose States 122
1. Classification of Coma 122
2. Antecedent Conditions 123
C. Clinical Evaluation of Cerebral Death 124
1. Cephalic Functions 124
2. Assessment of Peripheral and Spinal Cord Function 127
3. Conclusion 128
D. Ancillary Investigations 128
1. Cerebral Circulation 128
2. The EEG 129
   a) Value of the EEG 129

Table of Contents

b) Nature of the EEG 129

c) Equipment and Recording Conditions 131

3. EEG Diagnosis of Death -- Minimal EEG Technical Requirements 131

V. General Discussion 136
VI. References 137

Immunogenetics of Graft Rejection
J. A. SACHS

I. Introduction 140
II. Historical Background 141
III. ABO Blood Group System and Histocompatibility 142
IV. HL-A System in Man 143
   A. HL-A and Histocompatibility 145
      1. Clinical Evidence 145
      2. Experimental Evidence 146
   B. Mixed Lymphocyte Cultures (MLC) 146
V. Selection of Donors and Recipients for Renal Transplantation 148
   A. Live Related Donors 148
   B. Cadaver Donors 148
   C. Cross-Match for HL-A Cytotoxic Antibodies 151
VI. Collaboration in Renal Transplantation 152
VII. Appendix I 153
VIII. Appendix II 154
IX. Appendix III 156
X. References 156

The Management of Immunosuppression
B. HULME

A. Introduction 159
B. Pharmacology of Immunosuppressive Drugs 160
   1. Azathioprine 160
   2. Corticosteroids 161
   3. Antilymphocyte Globulin (ALG) 162
   4. Anticoagulants and Platelet De-Aggregating Agents 163
C. Protocol of Immunosuppression for Graft Recipients 163
   1. Cadaveric Grafts 163
   2. Living Related Donor Kidney Grafts 164
D. The Diagnosis and Management of Rejection Episodes in Graft Recipients 164
E. Conclusion 165

Subject Index 167

List of Contributors
Preface

Organ transplantation in clinical medicine is the logical outcome of research and experience in several medical specialties. The dramatic quality of transplantation has generated interest both inside and outside the profession and this has stimulated further research as well as providing considerable clinical experience. The anaesthetist is involved not only in the preparation, management and anaesthesia of the patients but also in the intensive care both of recipients and of potential donors. While the future role of transplantation is far from clear, the encouraging results obtained in the field of renal transplantation mean that anaesthetists in
many centres will be involved in the management of donors and recipients, both in the intensive care unit and in the operating theatre. The contributors to this book report on their methods and experience for the benefit of the anaesthetist whether or not he is directly concerned with transplantation medicine. Interest during the last decade has focussed on the transplantation of the major vital organs: heart, kidney, liver and lungs and this book describes the preparation, management and anaesthesia of patients for these procedures. Chapters have also been included on immuno-suppressive therapy, on immunology for its general importance and on death because of its significance in organ donation. Each authors chapter is an independent account of his subject but repetition of common knowledge content has been eliminated where this has been possible without undue trespass on this independence.

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