

Preface

In 1998, the European Renal Association–European Dialysis Transplant Association (ERA–EDTA) decided to create the European Best Practice Guidelines.

The first guidelines on The Management of Anaemia in Patients with Chronic Renal Failure were published in 1999 as Volume 14, Supplement 5 to *Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation*.

Three expert groups have been convened to cover the treatment of end-stage renal failure: one on chronic haemodialysis, one on chronic peritoneal dialysis and one on renal transplantation.

Our group on renal transplantation was constituted in 1999. The work was distributed to each expert, carefully reviewed in plenary meetings, and the drafts were circulated for correction. It is therefore a collective work.

It is important to note that all experts were members of both the European Renal Association (ERA–EDTA) and the European Society for Organ Transplantation (ESOT).

It was not possible to study all references in the field of transplantation, so we have focused on randomized control trials (RCTs) and large open trials.

In this work, we graded the quality of evidence on the following levels:

Evidence level A: guidelines are supported by at least one large published RCT.

Evidence level B: guidelines are supported by large open trials or smaller trials with consensus results.

Evidence level C: guidelines are derived from small or controversial studies, or represent the opinion of the group of experts.

These guidelines were produced to represent the optimal management in the field of renal transplantation inside the European Union (currently 15 countries). These recommendations should serve as a target for countries outside the EU which may have lower standards of patient care.

These guidelines on renal transplantation are published in two parts:

- the first part was published in 2000 in *Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation*, Volume 15, Supplement 7.
- the second part is published here.

These guidelines should be revised and adapted regularly. We currently are considering an annual update of these documents on the Oxford University Press website.

Finally, on behalf of the group of experts, I would like to thank F. Hoffman-La Roche Ltd for their support with an unrestricted educational grant.

We will be pleased to receive corrections, comments, amendments and criticisms.

*François Berthoux
On behalf of the EBPG Expert Group on
Renal Transplantation*