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## The evolution of renal transplantation in Mauritius (1980–1997)

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### Introduction

The first renal transplantation in Mauritius was performed in 1980 by a local surgeon. Approximately 15-transplantations were performed over the following 2 years. These patients underwent transplantation in private clinics, the patients paying for the surgery. In 1982, transplantation stopped for several reasons including high morbidity and mortality. However, the first patient that underwent transplantation in December 1980 is still alive with a normal serum creatinine level. Since then, renal transplantation in Mauritius has evolved through the phases of patients going overseas for their operations, to foreign teams carrying out renal transplantations in Mauritius, and finally, to renal transplantations being performed by local surgeons. In this report, we describe the evolution of renal transplantation in Mauritius from 1984 to 1997.

#### Transplantations carried out abroad (1984–1997)

Eighteen patients underwent renal transplantation in South Africa between 1984 and 1997. These included

13 living related kidney transplantations, two living unrelated transplantations, and three cadaveric renal transplantations. One patient with a functioning graft died of liver failure, due to hepatitis B virus infection, and one patient died of chronic rejection of the renal allograft. The remaining 16 patients are alive with good renal function. Between 1990 and 1993, 15 patients underwent renal transplantation in Bombay, India, with grafts from living related donors. Of these patients, six have died due to chronic rejection of the allograft, and one patient is back on dialysis. Eight patients are alive with functioning grafts.

There were also many patients who, lacking a potential living donor, went to India to “buy” kidneys. Their exact number is not known. Most of them were referred by private medical practitioners, and many were not fit for transplantation. Many of these patients died in India. Of the 52 patients who returned from India for subsequent follow-up, 18 have died since and 5 are back on dialysis. Twenty-nine patients are alive with functioning grafts.

Patients also underwent transplantation in France (2), United Kingdom (2) and Australia (1).

#### Transplants in Mauritius by foreign teams (1992–1995)

Transplant teams from India (Bombay) came to Mauritius on six occasions, and twice from South Africa. In total, 48 transplantations were performed. Thirty-one of the grafts are still functioning, and 17 patients have died.

#### Transplants in Mauritius by local team (1993–1997)

One transplantation was performed by a local team in 1993. Unfortunately, the patient died of pneumonia soon after the operation. Since 1995, the team of surgeons and physicians from Mauritius has performed a

**Table 1** Summary of transplantations performed between 1984 and 1997

Country	Period	No. of Tx	Cadaver donors	Live donors	Functioning grafts	Deaths
South Africa	1984–1997	18	3	13LRD: 2 LURD	16	2
France	1990–1992	2	1	1	2	0
United Kingdom		2	1	1	2	0
Australia	1984	1	1	–	1	0
India (official)	1990–1993	15	–	15	8	6
India (unofficial)	1991–1995	–	–	52 LURD	29	18
Mauritius-Foreign teams	1992–1995	48	0	48	31	17
Mauritius-Local teams	1993–1997	37	0	37	34	2

total of 37 renal transplantations. Two patients have died, and one graft has been lost because of sepsis. The remaining 34 patients are alive with functioning grafts.

### Discussion

Renal transplantation in Mauritius has evolved over the last 20 years through three phases, which included patients going abroad for their surgery, to transplantations

being performed locally by foreign transplant teams, to finally being performed locally by the local team. Renal transplantation is now readily available in Mauritius. The major limiting factor remains to be a critical shortage of organs for transplantation, since legislation regarding brain-stem death has not been passed. Thus, the next phase in the evolution of transplantation in Mauritius will be the establishment of cadaveric transplantation.