

Infection/Inflammation

# A Prospective Study of Single-Dose Antibiotic Prophylaxis in Live Donor Nephrectomy

Ho Sung Jang, Kyung Hwa Choi, Seung Choul Yang, Woong Kyu Han

Department of Urology, Urological Science Institute, Yonsei University Health System, Seoul, Korea

**Purpose:** To perform a prospective analysis of the clinical outcomes of prophylactic antibiotic treatment before the standard surgical modality of living donor nephrectomy (LDN) without postoperative antibiotic treatment.

**Materials and Methods:** From November 2005 to June 2010, a total of 470 patients underwent LDN at our medical institution, and 280 of these patients were injected with 1 g cephalosporin 30 minutes before the operation. The group receiving prophylactic antibiotics was compared with a control group composed of 190 patients who received injections of 2 g cephalosporin per day for 5 days after the operation. The presence of fever, incidence of blood transfusion, and period of drainage use were compared between the two groups.

**Results:** There were no significant differences in gender, age, body mass index, incidence of blood transfusion after the operation, fever over 38°C 3 days after the operation, or period of drain insertion between the single-dose group and the control group. The follow-up was conducted for 1 month after the operation, and 1 case of surgical site infection (SSI) was observed in each group ( $p=0.783$ ).

**Conclusions:** Of 280 patients in the single-dose group, 1 contracted SSI. In comparison with the control group, which was dosed with prophylactic antibiotics for 5 days after the operation, the single-dose group did not have a significantly different occurrence of SSI. We found that the incidence rate of SSI did not increase, even though prophylactic antibiotics were not used after standard and conventional open surgeries, such as video-assisted minilaparotomy surgery.

**Key Words:** Antibiotic prophylaxis; Living donors; Nephrectomy; Surgical wound infection; Video-assisted surgery

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**Article History:**

received 1 November, 2010

accepted 27 December, 2010

**Corresponding Author:**

Woong Kyu Han  
Department of Urology, Urological  
Science Institute, Yonsei University  
College of Medicine, 134,  
Shinchon-dong, Seodaemun-gu,  
Seoul 120-752, Korea  
TEL: +82-2-2228-2323  
FAX: +82-2-312-2538  
E-mail: hanwk@yuhs.ac

## INTRODUCTION

Surgical site infection (SSI) is the third most frequently reported nosocomial infection [1]. SSI is defined as an infection that occurs in the skin and soft tissue of a surgical site within 30 days after an operation. Any purulent discharge from a closed surgical incision, together with signs of inflammation of the surrounding tissue, should be considered to be a wound infection, irrespective of whether microorganisms can be cultured [2].

SSIs are a significant source of postoperative morbidity; they result in longer hospital stays and increased cost.

Kirkland et al found that surgical patients (of all specialties) with SSI were twice as likely to die, 60% more apt to be admitted to an intensive care unit, and greater than five times as likely to require hospital readmission [3].

In recent times, antibiotics have been advanced, thus improving the treatment options for various bacterial diseases. Nevertheless, SSI is still an important problem, despite the prophylactic use of antibiotics; in particular, the overuse of antibiotics is a serious problem. *Staphylococcus aureus*, i.e., the major pathogen of SSI, easily develops antibiotic resistance. In particular, methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* infection is an important social problem, owing

to the difficulty of treatment and patients' mental and physical anguish and financial burden [4,5].

Many recent studies have suggested that the post-operative administration of antibiotics is not necessary to prevent SSI if a standardized surgical treatment has been performed [6]. Standardized techniques are widely used in urologic surgeries, but the prolonged administration of antibiotics after an operation has not been fully studied [7].

At our institute, live donor nephrectomy (LDN) has been performed in accordance with the standardized video-assisted minilaparotomy surgery (VAMS) technique. This study was prospectively performed to ascertain whether a single dose of prophylactic antibiotics is sufficient to prevent SSI in patients who undergo LDN.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was conducted on 470 patients who underwent VAMS-LDN at our institution between November 2005 and June 2010. The patients had not received any antibiotics before the operation and had no problems with immune function. The experimental group included 280 patients who were injected with 1 g cephalosporin 30 minutes before the operation, and these patients were compared with a control group composed of 190 patients who were injected with 2 g cephalosporin per day for 5 days after the operation.

Exclusion criteria included a history of allergic reaction to cephalosporin, age younger than 18 years or older than 80 years, concurrent use of systemic antibiotics or prophylactic antibiotics for a medical condition, extended anesthetic time due to cooperation with other departments, and inability to return for follow-up evaluation.

We collected information about the patient's characteristics, including their past history of hypertension, diabetes mellitus, and blood transfusion, and a calculation was made to determine the length of catheterization (the drain [Hemovac<sup>®</sup>; Zimmer, Dover, OH, USA] and Foley catheter). Body temperature was checked every day during hospitalization to identify cases in which it exceeded 38°C even 3 days after the operation. During hospitalization (5 days) and 1 month after the operation, physical examination was used to determine whether the surgical site was infected.

For statistical analysis, SPSS ver. 12.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA) was used. To compare intergroup variables, the Student's t-test and the chi-square test were used. The significance level was set at a p-value of less than 0.05.

## RESULTS

The 280 patients who were given the single dose of antibiotics (the single-dose group) were composed of 123 males (43.93%) and 157 females (56.07%), with an average age of 40.93 years (range, 17-63 years). The control group of 190 patients was composed of 97 males (51.05%) and 93 females (48.95%), with an average age of 39.74 years (range, 16-66 years). The body mass index (BMI) was 23.42 and 23.86 in

**TABLE 1.** Patient characteristics in living donor nephrectomy

	Control group (n=190)	Single-dose group (n=280)	p-value
Sex			
Female	93 (48.95%)	157 (56.07%)	0.133
Male	97 (51.05%)	123 (43.93%)	0.133
Age (yr)	39.74±11.35	40.93±10.68	0.246
BMI	23.86±3.36	23.42±2.88	0.130
DM	0	1 (0.36%)	0.318
HTN	11 (5.79%)	7 (2.50%)	0.091

BMI: body mass index, DM: diabetes mellitus, HTN: hypertension

**TABLE 2.** Perioperative results comparing the control group and the single-dose group

	Control group (n=190)	Single-dose group (n=280)	p-value
Blood transfusion (n, %)	4 (2.11)	3 (1.07)	0.448
POD3 fever over 38°C (n, %)	4 (2.11)	4 (1.43)	0.720
Drainage insertion period (d)	4.20 (1-11)	4.51 (1-15)	0.089
Higher-age group, ≥50 yr (n, %)	40 (21.05)	67 (23.92)	0.467
POD2 leukocytosis, >10,000 cells/ul (n, %)	13 (6.84)	14 (5.00)	0.401

POD: postoperative day

the single-dose group and the control group, respectively, and no significant inter-group difference was observed (p=0.130). There was only one patient with diabetes mellitus in the single-dose group (0.36%), and there was no significant difference between the groups in the number of patients with hypertension (Table 1).

In the control group, 4 patients (2.11%) received a blood transfusion after the operation, and in the single-dose group, 3 patients (1.07%) received a transfusion (p=0.448). Each group had 4 patients who had a fever over 38°C for 3 days after the operation, but this was not statistically significant (p=0.720). The period of drain insertion was 4.51 days (range, 1-15 days) and 4.20 days (range, 1-11 days) in the single-dose group and the control group, respectively, but there was no significant intergroup difference (p=0.089) (Table 2).

The follow-up was conducted for 1 month after the operation, during which time 1 case of wound infection was observed at the superficial surgical site in each group (p=0.783).

## DISCUSSION

SSI has been reported to account for 38% of all of pathogenic infections. To prevent pathogenic infection, prophylactic antibiotics have been used after operations [2]. There have been many cases in which prophylactic antibiotics were ad-

ministered before the operation and were used until the drain was removed or the stitches removed. As surgical techniques have advanced, however, the operative time has been shortened, surgeries have become less invasive, and techniques have become standardized. As the case stands now, there is controversy about the postoperative use of prophylactic antibiotics [6,8].

The guidelines established by the American Urological Association stipulate that, in operations for clean-contaminated wounds, prophylactic antibiotics should only be used when risk factors are observed [9]. The European Association of Urology guidelines stipulate that prophylactic antibiotics are not to be used for cases in which laparoscopic surgeries or open surgeries are free from contamination, but, in clean-contaminated wounds, a single dose of prophylactic antibiotics needs to be given [10].

Prophylactic antibiotics should be used for the shortest possible period. Inappropriate antibiotic use increases environmental pressures favoring the emergence of antimicrobial-resistant bacteria that can cause SSI, resulting in an increase in the cost of health care [11]. In Korea, the use of antibiotics is hardly restricted, and antimicrobial-resistant bacteria, such as methicillin-resistant *S. aureus*, are more prevalent than in other countries. Methicillin-resistant bacteria have increased since 1970, and in 1987, resistant bacteria accounted for 55.6% of infections. In 2005, antimicrobial resistance was reported to have reached 70% [4,5].

Antibiotics themselves may cause side effects, such as nephrotoxicity, allergy, and even hemolytic anemia as a result of the production of drug-induced antibodies [12,13]. A rare but important complication of antibiotic use is pseudomembranous enterocolitis, which is induced most commonly by clindamycin, the cephalosporins, and ampicillin [14,15].

Due to these adverse effects, appropriate reduction of the use of antimicrobial prophylaxis should be considered.

In Korea, there have been few well-designed prospective studies on the prophylactic use of antibiotics for urologic surgeries, and as a result, prophylactic antibiotics are often inappropriately used in a variety of urologic surgical procedures [7,16].

SSI occurs when bacteria are resistant to antibiotics or the surgical site is exposed to innumerable bacteria, most of which are introduced by the operators' contaminated hands [17-21]. Thus, laparoscopic surgeries and minimal-incision surgeries lower the possibility of occurrence, because they are performed mostly by the use of instruments instead of surgeons' hands [22,23].

Yoshida et al, who performed minimum-incision endoscopic surgeries for adrenal and renal tumors, reported that superficial SSI occurred in 1 of 31 in a group that received a single dose of prophylactic antibiotics 30 minutes before the operation, but there were no cases of deep surgical sites or distant regions being infected [6].

With regard to this study, SSI occurred in one patient from each group, and no significant intergroup differences

were observed ( $p=0.783$ ). Our results suggest that LDN, which technically is a well-standardized surgery, does not require the use of postoperative prophylactic antibiotics, thus minimizing the risks of adverse effects and the probable development of a new resistant bacterium.

Furthermore, our study could provide basic data for establishing Korean guidelines for antibiotic prophylaxis in urology.

The present study had some limitations. The study was conducted on comparatively healthy patients, who are not at high risk for infection. Therefore, on the basis of our study results, we cannot ascertain whether the prophylactic single dose is sufficient for high-risk groups. Consequently, there is a need to perform further studies on high-risk groups.

## CONCLUSIONS

Of 280 patients who received a single dose of prophylactic antibiotics before the operation, 1 patient contracted an SSI. In comparison with the control group, which received prophylactic antibiotics for 5 days after the operation, the single-dose group did not show a significant difference in the occurrence of SSI. In conclusion, we found that the incidence rate of SSI did not increase when prophylactic antibiotics were not used after VAMS, a standard, conventional open surgery.

## Conflicts of Interest

The authors have nothing to disclose.

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