

Letters to the Editor

Rabies after Corneal Transplantation: Existed Evidence

Dear Editor:

Sir, rabies is an important neurological infection. It is deadly and it is not possible to treat it. Despite the attempt for rabies control via animal control and rabies vaccination, there are many reported cases of rabies in each year. Basically, the transmission of rabies is due to animal bite. Recently, the new mode of rabies transmission, human to human, via transplantation is confirmed. The consideration on corneal transplantation should be mentioned.^{1,2} From simple literature searching, there are at least 8 reports from several countries, both tropical and non-tropical ones, on rabies after corneal transplantation.³⁻¹⁰ Usually, the rabies develops within a few days after transplantation.³⁻¹⁰ All reports had no history of rabies signs and symptoms in infective donor. Of interest, some reports also mentioned for an infective donor that provides infective cornea and other organs causing rabies to many new rabid recipients.³ Although the rabies transmission due to corneal transplant has been continuously reported since 1970's, the new reports in the past two years can still be seen. Since corneal transplantation is widely practice and the risk of rabies is existed. It is questionable that the donor screening for rabies before transplantation is required or not.

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