

Think Deeply, Dream Fearlessly

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Abstract

This is about my journey of getting 4 SCI publications, including an article in *Lancet*, from a single patient. The reflection of this story tells the clinicians and medical researchers the importance of deep thinking, broad knowledge base, paying attention to the details, collaboration with colleagues, and dare to question out of the box and to explore the unknown fearlessly.

It all started from a routine follow-up of a renal transplant recipient. A large renal mass was incidentally noted in his native kidney. Then staging workup further identified a mass in his transplant kidney. Extensive literature review regarding the immunosuppression therapy among such patients made us to write a critique against a published paper which proposed that no immunosuppression reduction is necessary to transplant recipients with localized renal cell carcinoma (RCC). Collaboration of 2 experienced urologists/transplant surgeons/laparoscopy expert, and incorporation of the cutting-edge laparoendoscopic single site surgery was followed by a surgical workshop publication of a novel surgical technique of dealing with this very complex surgery via the principle of minimally invasive radical nephrectomy and zero-ischemia partial nephrectomy.

Further investigations regarding the origin of the 2 renal cell carcinomas with pathological and molecular biology analysis led to the publication of a *Lancet* article. In addition, treatment of the metastatic RCC in this patients later on with a novel anti-RCC medication (a mammalian target of rapamycin inhibitor), and pharmacokinetic study of its effective immunosuppressive metabolite to document his adequate degree of immunosuppression brought on another publication.

For physician scientists and medical researchers, do not overlook the trace hints from one or a few patients. Broad-based knowledge, learning the nuances among the daily routines, thinking deeply and fearlessly, and collegial interactions will do good for your scientific productivities.