

## **DOES SIROLIMUS CAUSE ANEMIA THAT IS REFRACTORY TO THERAPY?**

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We have conducted a retrospective study of renal transplant patients who while on sirolimus were given 1 g of intravenous (iv) iron, and compared their response to a control group of renal transplant patients who received iv iron as well but who were not on sirolimus.

We identified in our computerized database 21 patients for our study group and 21 control.

There were no significant differences in age, time to transplant and baseline hemoglobin (Hb) between the 2 groups.

Summary of results

	Sirolimus	Control
Number of patients	21	21
Hb before iv iron	10.63	10.60
Hb at 12 weeks	10.66	11.47

P 0.90

Although a statistical level of significance was not reached, there was a clear trend showing that the patients on sirolimus did not have an appropriate response to infusion of iv iron at 12 weeks, despite the fact they were iron deficient. Thus sirolimus may cause a “refractory” anemia.

Significant p value was not reached probably because of small sample size. Nevertheless we think a prospective study with a larger sample will most likely overcome this problem and will most probably confirm our hypothesis.