

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Response: Robot-assisted renal transplantation compared with conventional surgery: a real benefit?

doi:10.1111/tri.12395

Dear Sirs,

We appreciated the comments by Adani *et al.* [1], concerning our article 'Robot-assisted renal transplantation in the retroperitoneum' published in the May, 2014 edition of *Transplant International* [2]. Dr. Adani *et al.* raise several important issues with regard to robotic renal transplantation, especially on the actual benefits in patient and graft survival. Actually, in our pilot study of 10 patients, we showed that the operation wound of renal transplantation could be reduced to 7–9 centimeters using the robotic system; further studies would be needed to demonstrate the advantage and disadvantage of our robotic approach in terms of transplant outcomes. As to the concern for the anastomosis and ischemia time, we are now having compatible results with those of the conventional approach in our recent cases because our standard operation procedures have been set up and followed smoothly. Although sporadic reports described the same length of wound as ours for open renal transplantation, we would also argue that patient selection was critical to their success. However, we would be optimistic about the future of robotic surgery for

renal transplantation in general uremic patients, as the techniques of endoscopic and robotic surgery further established and the cost substantially reduced.

Meng-Kun Tsai
*Department of Surgery, National Taiwan University
Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan
e-mail: mengkuntsai@ntu.edu.tw*

Conflicts of interest

I declare no conflict of interest related to this manuscript.

References

1. Adani GL, Risaliti A. Robot-assisted renal transplantation compared to conventional surgery: a real benefit? *Transpl Int* 2014; **27**: e112.
2. Tsai MK, Lee CY, Yang CY, Yeh CC, Hu RH, Lai HS. Robot-assisted renal transplantation in the retroperitoneum. *Transpl Int* 2014; **27**: 452.