

General updates about VCA: Our experiences and updates

Vascularized composite allotransplantation (VCA) is now considered a non-life saving form of transplantation and thus acceptance for negative consequences of the treatment is limited. The successful application of transplant immunology may lay the ground for a major breakthrough for VCA as it will ultimately allow us to safely and successfully perform VCA. New insights developed from basic research will provide greater access to a patient population in need to restore form and function after severe injuries. In addition, knowledge gained through preclinical modality will advance the field of transplant immunology and thereby serve to build greater experience not only for VCA, but also for solid organ transplantation, further increasing the potentially life-saving impact of this new strategy. Our enthusiasm is based on the fact that our newly developing regimens have already been applied to patients in the setting of solid organ transplantation worldwide and several ongoing trials are examining its applicability for combined bone marrow and solid organ transplantation.