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Leiden

The Netherlands

## **HLA epitopes in kidney transplantation: from basic science to clinical application**

Bezstarosti, S.

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## STELLINGEN

behorende bij het proefschrift

# HLA epitopes in kidney transplantation: from basic science to clinical application

1. Reactivity pattern analysis of HLA-specific monoclonal antibodies facilitates the antibody verification of HLA eplets (*this thesis*).
2. The lack of empirical evidence for clinically relevant eplets is one of the main obstacles for implementation of eplet-matching in solid organ transplantation (*this thesis*).
3. In order to provide replicable clinical studies, HLA eplet terminology should be reviewed and overseen by an international group of experts (*this thesis*).
4. Site-directed mutagenesis of HLA molecules is an excellent technique to unravel functional epitopes that can be recognized by HLA-specific antibodies (*this thesis*).
5. HLA eplet mismatch load can identify patients eligible for minimization of immunosuppression after mesenchymal stromal cell therapy (*this thesis*).
6. Kidney allocation algorithms should prioritize compatibility of HLA class II over HLA class I, in order to limit the formation of donor-specific antibodies directed against HLA-DR and HLA-DQ (*Tambur et al. Kidney International (2021) 100, 1012-1022*).
7. Access to HLA mismatch analysis on the epitope level should not be hampered by the commercialization of HLA analysis tools.
8. Although it is too early for implementation of eplet-matching in organ allocation algorithms (*Tambur et al. Transplantation. 2023 Mar 1;107(3): 605-615.*), there are multiple possible clinical applications of eplets, such as posttransplant risk stratification.
9. It is time to investigate personalized dosing of immunosuppression in kidney transplant recipients based on HLA eplet mismatch loads in a clinical trial.
10. Compared with dialysis, kidney transplantation is not only a cost-effective, but also a more environment-friendly treatment for patients with end-stage kidney disease (*Grafals M, Sanchez R. Am J Transplant. 2016; 16 (suppl 3)*).
11. Researchers should strive to study ethnic minorities, in order to be able to apply their results to ethnically diverse populations.
12. Doing a PhD trajectory is highly recommendable and enjoyable, especially when there is a good connection between the PhD student and the supervisor(s).