

Table S1. Clinical characteristics of kidney transplant patients.

	RTx cases	RTx cases	Controls	p-value
	(n = 38)	(n = 18)	(n = 16)	
Immunosuppressive therapy	CNI-based	CNI-free		
Age, years [#]	59 ± 12	55 ± 14	57 ± 17	0.692 ¹
Sex (M/F, %) [#]	62/38	67/33	63/38	0.947 ²
Current smokers, % [#]	19.4	22.2	20.0	1.000 ²
Time from RTx, months	31 (14 – 78)	60 (18 – 96)	n.a.	0.127 ³
Enzymatic creatinine, mg/dl	1.6 (1.4 – 2.0) *	1.7 (1.6 – 2.1) *	0.83 (0.7 – 1.0)	0.000 ¹
eGFR, ml/min/1.73 m²	37.2 (30.3 – 47.6) *	33.7 (32.2 – 46.4) *	89.5 (72.0 – 128.5)	0.000 ¹
Hypertension, %	76	72	69	0.827 ²
Systolic blood pressure, mmHg	130 (120 – 140)	125 (120 – 130)	125 (120 – 140)	0.551 ¹
Diastolic blood pressure, mmHg	80 (70 – 80)	80 (75 – 80)	80 (70 – 80)	0.760 ¹
Diabetes mellitus, %	16	22	25	0.677
HbA1c, %	5.7 (5.4 – 6.1) *	5.5 (5.1 – 6.5)	5.2 (4.5 – 5.4)	0.035 ¹
Hemoglobin, g/dl	12.9 ± 1.4	12.1 ± 1.4	12.9 ± 1.0	0.087 ¹

Cholesterol, mg/dl	221.6 ± 49.0 *	225.5 ± 80.2 *	179.1 ± 37.2 &	0.033 ¹
HDL cholesterol, mg/dl	64.9 ± 16.4	60.3 ± 13.3	59.9 ± 10.0 &	0.651 ¹
LDL cholesterol, mg/dl	115.7 ± 47.5	120.8 ± 53.5	97.1 ± 33.4 &	0.300 ¹
Current medication				
<i>Cyclosporine, n (%)</i>	6 (16)	n.a.	n.a.	n.d.
<i>FK 506, n (%)</i>	19 (50)	n.a.	n.a.	n.d.
<i>MMF, n (%)</i>	n.a.	16 (89)	n.a.	n.d.
<i>Cyclosporine + MMF, n (%)</i>	1 (3)	n.a.	n.a.	n.d.
<i>FK 506 + MMF, n (%)</i>	11 (29)	n.a.	n.a.	n.d.
<i>Sirolimus + MMF, n (%)</i>	n.a.	2 (11)	n.a.	n.d.
<i>Cyclosporine (ng/ml) &</i>	91.6 ± 3.2	n.a.	n.a.	n.d.
<i>FK 506 (ng/ml)</i>	8.7 ± 3.1	n.a.	n.a.	n.d.
<i>MMF (ug/ml)</i>	3.6 ± 1.7	4.4 ± 2.7	n.a.	n.d.
<i>ACE inhibitors, %</i>	42.1	61.1	37.5	0.344 ²
<i>AT1 blockers, %</i>	5.3	11.1	6.3	0.826 ²
<i>Statins, %</i>	50.0 *	66.7 *	6.3	0.001 ²

<i>Erythropoietin, %</i>	7.9	22.2	0	0.097 ²
<i>Steroids, %</i>	94.7	83.3	n.a.	0.314 ²
CD34+EPC, units/ml	75 (25 – 150) *	25 (0 – 100)	24.5 (0 – 25)	0.024 ¹
CD133+EPC, units/ml	175 (100 -250) *	200 (75 – 325) *	100 (40-152)	0.021 ¹
SDF-1, pg/ml	2679 ± 450 *	2681 ± 437 *	2225 ± 226	0.001 ¹

In cases of normal distribution: variables are presented as mean ($\pm$ SD). In cases of skewed distribution: variables are presented as median (interquartile range). Comparisons were performed among the three groups. ¹Kruskall-Wallis test; ²Fisher's exact test; ³Mann-Whitney test. *p<0.05 compared to control group with Mann-Whitney test or Fisher's exact test. [#]For all data analysis (except for age, sex and current smokers) four patients on calcineurin inhibitor-based therapy are twice measured at different dates and contributed as independent values (34 patients, 38 cases). The term cases characterize all observations included these double measured values. [&]Less than ten non-missing values. ACE, angiotensin-converting enzyme; AT₁, angiotensin-II receptor; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; HDL, high-density lipoprotein; LDL, low-density lipoprotein; MMF, mycophenolate mofetil; RTx, kidney transplantation; SDF-1, stromal cell-derived factor-1 alpha. (n.a. = not applied; n.d. = not determined).