

OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee

Meeting Summary

January 6, 2023

Conference Call

James Pomposelli, MD, PhD, Chair

Scott Biggins, MD, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 01/06/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. New Project Discussion: Alcohol-Associated Hepatitis

The following is a summary of the Committee's discussions.

1. New Project: Alcohol-Associated Hepatitis

The Committee continued discussing the topic of alcohol-associated hepatitis and a path forward for a potential project.

Summary of discussion:

An attendee asked if a guidance document on alcohol-associated hepatitis would provide guidance on clinical management of the condition or operational guidance. The Vice Chair responded that the guidance would be operational in nature.

Another attendee asked if the topic of liver transplant for alcohol associated hepatitis rises to the importance of other published OPTN guidance documents. The attendee stated that the guidance document may be similar to the *Guidance on Pediatric Transplant Recipient Transition* document.¹

A member stated the best practices for liver transplant for alcohol-associated hepatitis remain unknown, and a guidance document may not be feasible at this point in time. The Vice Chair responded that a subcommittee could review existing literature and be tasked with developing the best practices. The Vice Chair added that submitting a drafted guidance document to public comment would allow for feedback and determination on whether there is community consensus on the best practices. A member added that the guidance document could detail areas that need further exploration and data.

Another member stated that developing and publishing a guidance document may allow transplant program staff to show their administration that specific resources are necessary in order to support successful liver transplant for alcohol-associated hepatitis.

The Committee reviewed a draft outline for what may be included in a potential guidance document:

- Evidence/landscape of liver transplant for alcohol-associated hepatitis
- Best practices (candidate selection, and post-transplant support and treatment)

¹ OPTN Pediatric Transplantation Committee, *Guidance Document*, Pediatric Transition and Transfer Guidance Document. Available at https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/media/2759/pediatric_guidance_201812.pdf.

- Gaps of knowledge/concerns

Members were supportive of the content in the draft outline.

An attendee supported the creation of a guidance document over a white paper. The attendee stated that the guidance document may help encourage a systematic approach to liver transplant for alcohol-associated hepatitis. The member added that there is enough evidence to piece together components that would help provide a starting place for transplant programs. Other members agreed a guidance document aligns with the intent and purpose of the project idea.

Another attendee suggested that an individual with addiction and psychiatry expertise would be beneficial for the future discussions.

The Vice Chair stated that the guidance document would seek to streamline best practices for liver transplant for alcohol-associated hepatitis nationally, and identify what additional information is needed to further inform the best practices in the future. The Vice Chair stated that long-term the Committee could discuss whether there is an approach to modulating the pace of transplant for individuals with alcohol-associated hepatitis relative to other indications for liver transplant.

HRSA staff asked if the guidance document would include individuals with alcohol-associated hepatitis with advanced cirrhosis and minimal to no cirrhosis. The Vice Chair stated that majority of those with acute alcohol-associated hepatitis would also have cirrhosis, therefore the guidance document would address all.

An attendee added that the guidance document should define an appropriate diagnosis for alcohol-associated hepatitis.

A member stated that determining cirrhosis is completed post hoc and would require a pathology submission to clarify cirrhosis. The Vice Chair stated that the Committee could consider recommending mandatory pathology submission.

Next steps:

The Committee will continue to discuss and refine this topic as a potential new project idea.

Upcoming Meeting

- January 6, 2022 @ 3:00 PM ET (teleconference)
- January 20, 2022 @ 3:00 PM ET (teleconference)

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Alan Gunderson
 - Allison Kwong
 - Bailey Heiting
 - Christopher Sonnenday
 - Colleen Reed
 - Erin Maynard
 - Greg McKenna
 - James Eason
 - James Markmann
 - James Trotter
 - Kym Watt
 - Neil Shah
 - Scott Biggins
 - Shunji Nagai
 - Sumeet Asrani
 - Vanessa Pucciarelli
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
 - John Lake
 - Katie Audette
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Betsy Gans
 - Erin Schnellinger
 - Jennifer Musick
 - Katrina Gauntt
 - Krissy Laurie
 - Meghan McDermott
 - Niyati Upadhyay
 - Susan Tlusty
- **Other Attendees**
 - Anji Wall
 - Dave Weimer
 - Deepika Devuni
 - Gene Im
 - Marina Serper
 - S Taylor