

OPTN Vascularized Composite Allograft Transplantation Committee

Meeting Summary

April 16, 2025

Conference Call

Vijay Gorantla, MD, PhD, Chair
Paige Porrett, MD, PhD, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Vascularized Composite Allograft (VCA) Transplantation Committee (the Committee) met via WebEx teleconference on 04/16/2025 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Overview & Discussion of National Academies: Advancing Face and Hand Transplantation Recommendations

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

1. Overview & Discussion of National Academies: Advancing Face and Hand Transplantation Recommendations

Presentation Summary

The purpose of this study was to summarize existing evidence about face and hand transplants to provide a framework for standardizing protocols and operating procedures for face and hand transplants. The study offers five recommendations that are as follows:

1. To standardize the quality of care and embrace a whole health approach, face and hand transplant centers should use formal ethical oversight processes, establish a multidisciplinary care team, use a comprehensive and longitudinal pre-transplant assessment process, create a patient and caregiver education program, implement longitudinal post-transplant assessments, and support ongoing research.
2. Professional transplant and reconstructive surgery societies should develop education and training standards and increase awareness of these transplants as a treatment option.
3. The Clinical Organization Network for Standardization of Reconstructive Transplantation (CONSORT) should actively collaborate with the VCA community; use a formal consensus development method for the standardization of shared decision-making, immunosuppression, data collection, and other aspects of the transplant experience; develop a patient registry; engage with transplant centers to promote VCA program development; and use formal conflict resolution processes.
4. The Reconstructive Transplant Research Program (RTRP) should establish an independent, external oversight group for CONSORT that includes suggested multidisciplinary expertise.
5. Research funders should support research on immunosuppression, rejection, VCA outcome measurement tools, shared decision-making, patient selection, and rehabilitation techniques.

Summary of Discussion:

No decisions were made regarding this agenda item.
--

The Chair asked the Committee to consider how it might advance the recommendations in this report within the OPTN and how they might benefit VCA transplantation. The Committee discussed how standardization of clinical protocol, patient engagement, and shared decision-making with patients and caregivers might lead to more VCA transplants. One member noted this would benefit the psychosocial aspects of informed consent. The Committee discussed the potential for a patient needs assessment survey to look at qualitative data regarding what patients need and how they feel.

The Committee also discussed how VCA has done some groundwork in standardizing data collection with the Transplant Recipient Registration (TRR) and the Transplant Recipient Follow-up (TRF) forms. The Chair addressed the need for greater data sharing and flowing capabilities while protecting patient privacy and keeping data secure.

Next steps:

There are no next steps for this agenda item.

Upcoming Meeting

- May 21, 2025

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Vijay Gorantla
 - Paige Porrett
 - Elliott Richards
 - Bruce Gelb
 - Gregory McKenna
 - Charlie Thomas
 - Sheila May Advento
 - Alex Blood
 - Ericka Harrison
 - Amanda Gruendell
 - Todd Levy
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Avery Cook
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Ethan Studenic
 - Matt Cafarella
 - Erin Schnellinger