

OPTN Ad Hoc Multi-Organ Transplantation Committee

Meeting Summary

June 13, 2022

Conference Call

Alden Doyle, MD, MPH, Chair

Introduction

The Ad Hoc Multi-Organ Transplantation (MOT) Committee met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 06/13/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Kidney-pancreas allocation
2. Other kidney multi-organ allocation
3. Recognition of outgoing and incoming members

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

1. Kidney-pancreas allocation

The Vice Chair of the OPTN Pancreas Transplantation Committee, Dolamu Olaitan, presented to the Committee on pancreas allocation. This presentation included the history of kidney-pancreas allocation and an introduction of how pancreas factors are being considered for the first round of continuous distribution modeling. The presentation also introduced the idea of reframing kidney-pancreas transplant as pancreas-kidney transplant.

Summary of discussion:

Members discussed the similarities in survival rate between type 1 and type 2 diabetes patients who receive simultaneous pancreas-kidney transplants (SPK). The presenter noted that while type 1 and type 2 have traditionally been perceived as indicators for the necessary treatment, there are ongoing challenges with that way of thinking and patient characteristics should drive care, not the type of diabetes diagnosis. A member also noted how listing practices have changed since the data shown (from 1995-2003) and there are fewer patients currently registered for a pancreas transplant.

A member suggested including cross clamp as a factor for pancreas continuous distribution. This attribute would be used as a proxy for distance and efficiency, noting the benefit of local pancreas transplant. Members noted the lack of a sufficient medical urgency indicator for either pancreas or kidney. Members were supportive of reframing kidney-pancreas transplant as pancreas-kidney transplant.

The Committee discussed recommendations for further OPTN work. A member mentioned the current resource constraints that could be a challenge moving forward with additional projects at the moment. Members also considered the role that other organizations in the community could take in potentially developing a Pancreas Donor Risk Index (PDRI), offering that the OPTN take a support role instead of leading the effort.

A member inquired why pancreas transplants have decreased historically. The presenter noted that the benefit of pancreas alone transplant was questioned in previous literature, which led to a decrease in pancreas transplant despite literature proving otherwise. The presenter also noted the limited number of pancreas programs and the surgical expertise required for successful pancreas

procurement and transplant. A member added that diabetes treatment has improved which has led to alternative treatment methods. Members also considered the challenges with pancreas transplant and encouraged efficiency considerations to be built into the allocation framework. A member added that the pancreas list is smaller and has a shorter wait time so it is challenging to compare it to the kidney alone list.

Members with experience at Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) agreed that better direction needs to be given to OPOs regarding how to allocate kidneys. These members noted the importance of identifying proper pancreas patients and providing guidance on how pancreas ought to be allocated, including the urgency of pancreas patients. They emphasized the importance of clarifying and simplifying the process for OPOs. Members supported providing specific guidance to OPOs with little flexibility so that allocation decisions are not left to OPO discretion, especially with regard to pancreas transplant.

2. Other kidney multi-organ allocation

UNOS staff presented near-term and long-term options for future Committee work. In the near term, the Committee can develop guidance for OPOs on how to handle permissible multi-organ shares such as liver-kidney, heart-kidney, and lung-kidney. In the long term, the Committee can develop a concept paper on how to better stratify between MOT and single-organ transplant (SOT) candidates.

Summary of discussion:

Members agreed that guidance for OPOs is essential, but this should be done through policy as opposed to a guidance document. Members noted that guidance documents still create room for OPOs to make decisions and allocation practices ought to be dictated through policy. When dealing with multiple required shares, a member supported developing an organ-specific match run that has the ability to interact with other organ-specific match runs. This idea was not to develop one match run with all organs, but to develop a way to communicate across match runs. A member countered that one match run that is organized and allocated by the patient's Composite Allocation Score (CAS) would be best. This becomes more possible with the move to continuous distribution, but not all CAS will account for the same attributes or consider medical urgency in a comparative manner. A member noted that this is also a long-term goal. In the short-term, the OPTN Operations and Safety Committee is working on a provisional yes concept paper which would allow transplant centers to see who is listed above them. Ultimately, this will not resolve the issues at hand but it will provide more knowledge to the transplant centers.

3. Recognition of outgoing and incoming members

Staff acknowledged and thanked the departing members, whose terms end on June 30, 2022, for their service and contributions to the Committee.

Upcoming Meetings

- July 13, 2022
- August 10, 2022
- September 14, 2022

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Alden Doyle
 - Dolamu Olaitan
 - Jennifer Prinz
 - Jim Sharrock
 - Nicole Turgeon
 - Sandra Amaral
 - Shelley Hall
 - Vince Casingal
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Ben Wolford
 - Erin Schnellinger
 - Holly Sobczak
 - Joann White
 - Kaitlin Swanner
 - Matthew Cafarella
 - Melissa Lane
 - Laura Schmitt
 - Rebecca Fitz Marino
 - Sarah Booker
- **Other Attendees**
 - Kenny Laferriere
 - Lisa Stocks
 - Maria Casarella
 - Peter Abt
 - Valerie Chipman