

## **OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee**

### **Meeting Summary**

**March 7, 2025**

**Conference Call**

**Scott Biggins, MD, Chair**

**Shimul Shah, MD, MHCM, Vice Chair**

### **Introduction**

The OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee (the Committee) met via WebEx teleconference on 03/07/2025 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Median MELD at Transplant (MMaT) Around the Donor Hospital Two-Year Monitoring Report
2. National Liver Review Board (NLRB) Enhancements Monitoring Report
3. Project Update: Machine Perfusion Data Collection
4. Continuous Distribution: Split Liver (Continued Discussion)

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

### **1. Median MELD at Transplant (MMaT) Around the Donor Hospital Two-Year Monitoring Report**

The Committee reviewed the two-year monitoring report for the implementation of MMaT Around the Donor Hospital.

#### Data summary:

- Cohort: Pre-policy: 6/27/2020 – 6/27/2022; Post-policy 6/28/2022 – 6/27/2024
- Transplant rates increased pre- to post-policy, overall and for subgroups
- Registrations and removals due to death or too sick remained constant across policy eras
- The allocation MELD increased slightly pre- to post-policy for those transplanted with an exception

#### Summary of discussion:

There were no comments or questions.

#### Next steps:

This is the last formal monitoring report for the implementation of MMaT around the donor hospital. The Committee will continue to monitor as needed.

### **2. National Liver Review Board (NLRB) Enhancements Monitoring Report**

The Committee reviewed the monitoring report related to NLRB enhancements.

#### Data summary:

- Portopulmonary Hypertension, Hilar Cholangiocarcinoma, Neuroendocrine Tumors, and Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis and Secondary Sclerosing Cholangitis exception requests decreased in their respective post-guidance eras
- Pediatric Appeals Review Team reviewed 24 cases; 12 accepted

Summary of discussion:

The Vice Chair asked if there were any updates to the NLRB data that was presented during the October 9, 2024, meeting. Staff will follow up.

Next steps:

The Committee will continue to monitor updates to the NLRB.

**3. Project Update: Machine Perfusion Data Collection**

The Committee received an update about the development of the Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) Committee's project regarding machine perfusion data collection.

Summary of discussion:

The Vice Chair wondered if collecting data about the amount of blood product usage for NRP would be useful information. The Workgroup representative stated that this was considered and there was discussion whether data would need to separate blood given for the NRP machine versus total body. The member noted that the amount of blood administered is part of pre-existing data collection. Another member stated that separate data collection may not be necessary because OPOs collect how much blood is administered in the operating room.

A member suggested that the cross-clamp times be connected with the TransNet system.

The Vice Chair stated that it is difficult to collect data because currently most surgeons are not recording the data. The Workgroup representative agreed and stated that it would be helpful to know from the Committee whether there is interest in collecting every data point or trying to keep it as simple as possible, considering the administrative burden. A member responded that perhaps less is more and even collecting data on whether or not an organ was perfused, and which modality will be beneficial. The Vice Chair added that time on and off the pump will also be important.

Another member stated that the data collected should be easily interpretable by all. The member explained that the data should not require inferences or manipulations in order to understand what happened. A member agreed and stated that a lot of the suggested data might not be useful to non-surgeons. The member also stated that the data will likely not be accurate so it would not be helpful in analyses.

A member suggested that beginning and end lactate levels as well as if the organ was transplanted may also be important to collect.

Next steps:

The Committee's feedback will be relayed to the OPO Committee to support the development of the project.

**4. Continuous Distribution: Split Liver (Continued Discussion)**

The Committee continued to discuss split liver in the context of liver continuous distribution.

Summary of discussion:

Members opposed the concept of implementing a CAS threshold because it would result in candidates not appearing on the match run for the whole liver offer.

A member asked how the Committee can incentivize more transplant programs to perform split liver transplants. Another member stated that pediatric patients generally drive a split liver transplant. The member explained it is likely that the transplant programs performing split liver transplants are affiliated

with pediatric transplant programs. A member stated it would be important to understand the non-use rate of the right tri-segment. Another member noted that a goal should be the preservation and utilization of the tri-segment.

The Committee considered whether or not to implement criteria that would require transplant programs to have prior split liver transplant experience in order to participate.

Next steps:

The Committee will continue to develop the split liver attribute and its operational aspects.

**Upcoming Meetings**

- March 21, 2025 at 2 pm ET (teleconference)

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Aaron Ahearn
  - Allison Kwong
  - Cal Matsumoto
  - Christine Radolovic
  - Chris Sonnenday
  - Colleen Reed
  - Joseph DiNorcia
  - Lloyd Brown
  - Marina Serper
  - Neil Shah
  - Omer Junaidi
  - Shimul Shah
  - Vanessa Cowan
  - Vanessa Pucciarelli
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Bryn Thompson
  - David Schladt
  - Jack Lake
  - Simon Horslen
  - Nick Wood
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Alina Martinez
  - Benjamin Schumacher
  - Kaitlin Swanner
  - Laura Schmitt
  - Matt Cafarella
  - Meghan McDermott
  - Niyati Updahyay