

OPTN Lung Transplantation Committee

Meeting Summary

May 8, 2025

Conference Call

Matthew Hartwig, MD, Chair

Dennis Lyu, MD, Vice Chair

Introduction

The Lung Transplantation Committee (Committee) met via Webex teleconference on 5/8/2025 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Lung Continuous Distribution Two-Year Monitoring Report

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

1. Lung Continuous Distribution Two-Year Monitoring Report

Lung Continuous Distribution (CD), a points-based allocation system, was implemented on March 9, 2023¹. This allocation system replaced the prior classification-based system.

Committee members received a copy of the Lung CD Two-Year Monitoring Report (the monitoring report) before their May meeting.

Presentation Summary

Results were presented from the monitoring report, as follows²:

- Overall cohort
- CD Attributes
 - Medical Urgency
 - Post-Transplant Survival
 - Pediatric
 - Prior Living Donor
 - Blood Type
 - CPRA (i.e. sensitization)
 - Height
 - Efficiency
- Exceptions
- Multiorgan
- Transplant Program Geography and Size

The presenter gave an overview of the patient characteristics appendix in the monitoring report.

¹ *Establish Continuous Distribution of Lungs*, OPTN Lung Transplantation Committee, March 2023, <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/>, (accessed May 27, 2025).

² "Lung Continuous Distribution Two-Year Monitoring Report." Prepared for OPTN Lung Transplantation Committee Conference Call, May 8, 2025. The monitoring report is available here: <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/> (accessed May 27, 2025).

Summary of discussion

No decisions were made.

Blood Type and Donor-Recipient Matching

A committee member raised a question regarding donor blood types used for blood type AB recipients, as their transplant rates were higher compared to other blood types. The member speculated whether O donors were disproportionately allocated away from O recipients to other blood groups. The presenter clarified that AB recipients had increased access to A donors post-CD and ABO modification, with 4.9% of A donors now going to AB recipients (up from ~1.5% pre-CD).³ Only a small percentage of O donors were allocated to AB recipients. It was noted that approximately 14.5% of O donor organs were allocated to non-O recipients post-CD and ABO modification. There may be an opportunity to optimize allocation as part of the Committee's candidate biology project so that O recipients retain better access to O donors.

Retransplant Candidates as a Distinct Cohort

A patient representative questioned why retransplant candidates are not tracked as a separate cohort, noting that they represent a unique and potentially vulnerable population as transplant longevity increases. The presenter stated that this suggestion could be considered for the Lung CD three-year monitoring report, as there may be improved sample sizes for this population.

Diagnosis Group B Concerns

It was noted that candidates in Diagnosis Group B were more likely to be removed for death or being too sick, even after receiving an approved exception, particularly in the post-CD era. This may point to a misalignment in how medical urgency is captured for this group.

Lung-Liver Transplant Trends

A committee member commented on the rise in lung-liver transplants, suggesting it may reflect increased activity from centers already performing these transplants, rather than a direct result of allocation policy changes.

Closing comments and suggestions

The Vice Chair commented that it is encouraging to see the Committee's goals during development being met. The Chair encouraged members to review the report in detail and bring forth any concerns to Committee leadership or future meetings. There was a suggestion to re-evaluate the CPRA categories when sample sizes increase, so that the categories are more clinically meaningful.

Next steps

The Committee will review additional Lung CD monitoring results in Spring 2026.

³ "Lung Continuous Distribution Two-Year Monitoring Report," Table 27. Prepared for OPTN Lung Transplantation Committee Conference Call, May 8, 2025. The monitoring report is available here: <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/> (accessed May 27, 2025).

2. Preview Update Lung Mortality Models One-Year Monitoring Report

Update Data Collection for Lung Mortality Models was implemented in December 2023.⁴ Committee members received a copy of the one-year monitoring report before their May meeting.

Presentation summary

The presenter provided an overview of the implemented changes and one-year monitoring report structure.

Summary of discussion

No decisions were made.

Committee members were asked to review the monitoring results and report any concerns.

Next steps

The Committee will receive additional monitoring results in 2026.

Upcoming Meetings

- June 12, 2024, teleconference, 5PM ET

⁴ *Update Data Collection for Lung Mortality Models*, OPTN Lung Transplantation Committee, December 2023, <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/>, (accessed May 27, 2025).

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Matthew Hartwig
 - Dennis Lyu
 - Marie Budev
 - Brian Keller
 - David Erasmus
 - Ed Cantu
 - Thomas Kaleekal
 - Heather Strah
 - Katja Fort Rhoden
 - Wayne Tsuang
 - Brian Armstrong
 - Siddhartha Kapnadak
 - Lara Schaheen
 - Josepha Tusa
 - Jordan Hoffman
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - None
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Katie Siegert
 - Maria Masotti
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Kelley Poff
 - Kaitlin Swanner
 - Sara Rose Wells
 - Chelsea Hawkins
 - Leah Nunez
 - Holly Sobczak
 - Houlder Hudgins
 - Keighly Bradbrook