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UK LKD Network Newsletter

INTRODUCTION

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the Winter 2019 edition of the UK LKD network newsletter and thanks to the whole living transplant community for another year of hard work and multiple successful living donor transplants. This edition is looking at using the kidney sharing scheme to facilitate sharing despite there being a compatible donor, with Aisling Courtney highlighting the Belfast experience of this scheme and some additional national data on its use.

The Belfast experience: The UK Living Kidney Sharing Scheme (UKLKSS/KSS) was originally designed to facilitate living donor transplantation for incompatible donor-recipient pairs, but compatible pairs can also be entered into the KSS, if a better immunological or physiological match is desirable.

However, there is variable enthusiasm for this in transplant centres across the UK (see figure below), with only five centres responsible for 59% of all registered compatible pairs over the past 5-years; the other 19 centres collectively make up the remainder. Some have never entered a compatible pair in the KSS. Direct transplantation is always logistically easier, and some wonder if there is sufficient advantage to compatible pairs to justify the additional effort required to enter the KSS.

Belfast have entered 32 compatible pairs in the KSS, 24 were transplanted via the KSS and 8 subsequently proceeded with a direct transplant.

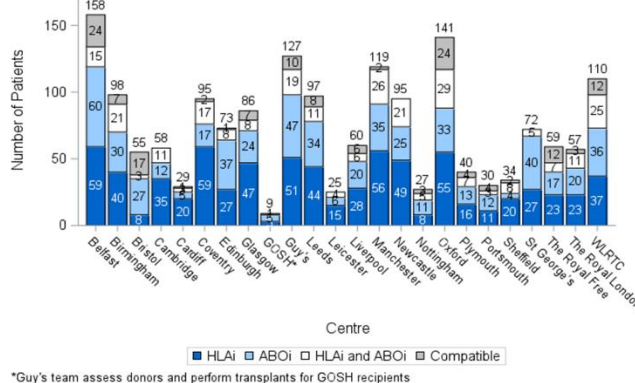
- In 23/24 cases the KSS donor had a more favourable HLA match: on average two fewer HLA antigen mismatches, and one HLA mismatch level better.
- In 14/24 cases, the KSS donor was younger: mean donor age reduction was 9.6 years. In three cases, the KSS donor was more than 10 years older than the direct donor, these transplants were all better matched.
- In 14/32 cases patients were registered in the KSS pre-emptively and received pre-emptive transplants.
- The mean creatinine one year post-transplant was 125 $\mu\text{mol/L}$, though the real advantage of better matching is expected to be evident in the medium and long-term graft survival.
- Additionally, the Belfast compatible pairs facilitated 63 KSS transplants; six were in highly sensitised patients and two in children.

Recipients with compatible donors can still be advantaged by KSS transplantation.

Overall since 1 January 2017, across the UK 156 compatible pairs have been included in at least one matching run. Of these, 78 pairs have resulted in a transplant with their pair through the scheme and in total have facilitated 175 transplants.

So please ask the question: would a better quality (immunological or physiological) kidney be desirable for this recipient?

Figure 4.3 Number of pairs included in matching runs, 1 April 2013 - 31 March 2019



Source: Annual Report on Living Donor Kidney Transplantation 2018/19, NHS Blood and Transplant

Dates for the diary

- UK Living Kidney Donation Network meeting, 13th February 2013, Jury's Inn, Birmingham. Full programme details available here: <https://www.odt.nhs.uk/living-donation/uk-living-kidney-donation-network/>
- BTS Congress 2020 4th- 6th March, ICC Belfast registration open via <https://www.bts.org.uk/events-meetings/>

Resources for UK Living Donor Kidney Transplantation Network

Click on the link below for a list of up to date resources and how to access them:

<https://nhsbt.dbe.blob.core.windows.net/umbraco-assets-corp/17445/ldkt-useful-resources-v5-may-2019.pdf>

Kind regards

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