

**NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT
ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION DIRECTORATE**

PANCREAS ADVISORY GROUP

AGE LIMITS OF PANCREAS DONORS

BACKGROUND

1. In 2018/19, 38% of all deceased donors were aged 60 years or more and a further 24% were aged 50-59 years. Overall in 2018/19, 3% of deceased pancreas or islet donors were aged 60 or more and a further 23% were aged 50-59 years.
2. The current upper age limits for whole pancreas and islet donors after brain death (DBD) and donors after circulatory death (DCD) are shown in the table below.

Donor type	Whole pancreas	Islets
DBD	<66 years	<61 years
DCD	<56 years	<51 years

3. The suggestion has been made that there could be gains in efficiency and a reduction in the duration of the donation pathway by reviewing the upper age limits for pancreas and islet donors.
4. This paper reviews data, in a five-year period from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2019, on deceased solid organ donors aged less than 66 years, the overall outcome of the pancreas and the utilisation of deceased pancreas and islet donors, by age group. The age groups presented reflect the current upper age limits for pancreas donation.

RESULTS

5. **Table 1** shows the deceased solid organ donors in the UK in the five year time period and the outcome of the pancreas by donor type and donor age group. As the donor age group increases, the proportion of solid organ donors whose pancreas was donated decreases and the proportion of those pancreas donors resulting in transplantation also decreases.
6. Of the 393 DBD solid organ donors aged 61-65 years, 293 (75%) had the pancreas offered and in 35 (12% of those offered) the pancreas was retrieved. Of those 35, nine resulted in a transplant; 3% of those donors whose pancreas was offered for donation.
7. Of the 359 DCD solid organ donors aged 51-55 years, 275 (77%) had the pancreas offered and in 72 (26% of those offered) the pancreas was retrieved. Of those 72, 21 resulted in a transplant; 8% of those donors whose pancreas was offered for donation.

Age group (years)	Solid organ donor N	Pancreas offered		Donated		Transplanted		
		N	(%)	N	(% of offered)	N	(% of donated)	% of offered
DBD								
0-50	1974	1728	(88)	1257	(73)	686	(55)	40
51-55	565	491	(87)	293	(60)	110	(38)	22
56-60	480	413	(86)	188	(45)	57	(30)	14
61-65	393	293	(75)	35	(12)	9	(26)	3
Total	3412	2925	(86)	1773	(61)	862	(49)	29
DCD								
0-50	1060	861	(81)	488	(57)	256	(52)	30
51-55	359	275	(77)	72	(26)	21	(29)	8
56-60	389	0	(0)	-	-	-	-	-
61-65	368	0	(0)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1792	1136	(52)	560	(49)	277	(50)	24

8. **Table 2** shows a breakdown of those pancreas donors by the final organ type recorded, donor type and age group. For whole pancreas DBD donors, the proportion transplanted reduces from 65% of those aged 0-50 years to 26% of those aged 61-65 years. For those pancreas islet donors, a similar proportion resulted in transplantation across the age groups, around a fifth.

Age group (years)	Not transplanted		Transplanted		Total N
	N	(%)	N	(%)	
Whole pancreas					
DBD					
0-50	330	(35)	620	(65)	950
51-55	88	(54)	76	(46)	164
56-60	56	(62)	34	(38)	90
61-65	26	(74)	9	(26)	35
Total	500	(40)	739	(60)	1239
DCD					
0-50	161	(40)	237	(60)	398
51-55	51	(71)	21	(29)	72
Total	212	(45)	258	(55)	470
Islets					
DBD					
0-50	241	(79)	66	(22)	307
51-55	95	(74)	34	(26)	129
56-60	75	(77)	23	(23)	98
Total	411	(77)	123	(23)	534
DCD					
0-50	71	(79)	19	(21)	90
Total	71	(79)	19	(21)	90

9. Tables 1 and 2 for the most recent year, 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019, are shown in the Appendix.

ACTION

10. Members are asked to review the information presented and consider if there is sufficient evidence to propose changing the age limits for pancreas donation with a view to potentially reducing the duration of the donation pathway.

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Appendix

Table 1a Deceased solid organ donors, 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 by age group								
Age group (years)	Solid organ donor N	Pancreas offered		Donated		Transplanted		
		N	(%)	N	(% of offered)	N	(% of donated)	% of offered
DBD								
0-50	418	356	(85)	265	(74)	130	(49)	37
51-55	135	118	(87)	62	(53)	19	(31)	16
56-60	103	92	(89)	27	(29)	8	(30)	9
61-65	87	67	(77)	8	(12)	2	(25)	3
Total	743	633	(85)	362	(57)	159	(44)	25
DCD								
0-50	216	172	(80)	86	(50)	49	(57)	28
51-55	69	63	(91)	18	(29)	6	(33)	10
56-60	93	0	(0)	-	-	-	-	-
61-65	91	0	(0)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	469	235	(50)	104	(44)	55	(53)	23

Table 2a Deceased pancreas donors, 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 by organ type, donor type and age group					
Age group (years)	Not transplanted		Transplanted		Total N
	N	(%)	N	(%)	
Whole pancreas					
DBD					
0-50	86	(43)	114	(57)	200
51-55	31	(66)	16	(34)	47
56-60	13	(81)	3	(19)	16
61-65	6	(75)	2	(25)	8
Total	136	(50)	135	(50)	271
DCD					
0-50	28	(38)	45	(62)	73
51-55	12	(67)	6	(33)	18
Total	40	(44)	51	(56)	91
Islets					
DBD					
0-50	49	(75)	16	(25)	65
51-55	12	(80)	3	(20)	15
56-60	6	(55)	5	(45)	11
Total	67	(74)	24	(26)	91
DCD					
0-50	9	(69)	4	(31)	13
Total	9	(69)	4	(31)	13