New Findings Made at Transplant Centres Requiring Histopathology Assessment

Purpose
On arrival at an accepting Transplant Centre, during the physical assessment of an organ, there are occasions when suspicious lesions are identified that require histopathology assessment. This is not a service provided or commissioned by NHSBT and the destination of samples can vary significantly. This process provides guidance for all those involved in the histopathology assessment of samples that may affect the safety of an organ, including Transplant Centres, Histopathologists, Biomedical Scientists, Hub Operations staff, and SNODs.

Responsibilities

Transplant Centres –
To notify Hub Operations immediately if any new suspicious lesions are identified during organ assessment at the Recipient Centre, and timescales of any results to be available. To ensure consideration of other potential recipients when making decisions around biopsy plans. To communicate both provisional and final results in a timely way.

Histopathology Laboratory –
Notify SNOD/Hub Operations of any findings or results following histopathology assessment.

Hub Operations (HO) –
To communicate with the appropriate RCPoC/National Referral Centre (NRC)/SNBTS/Donor Records Department (DRD) once informed of the finding and any results and document their actions on NTxD.

Specialist Nurse – Organ Donation (SNOD)
The SNOD is responsible for ensuring the provisional and final histopathology results are ascertained.

Donor Records Department (DRD) –
To forward all histopathology findings to the SNOD as soon as they are received from Hub Operations.

NB the DRD is not a 24/7 service.

Items Required
FRM6390 – National Histopathology Request Form – For use by Transplant Centre
MPD881 – Findings Requiring Additional Action
New Findings Made at Transplant Centres Requiring Histopathology Assessment

Organ received at transplant unit. On assessment, previously unseen suspicious lesion identified

Decision made to take a biopsy?

Yes

Inform Hub Operations

Hub Operations – Gain point of contact details from centre. If biopsy is planned, confirm expected timescales to pass on

Biopsy must be sent as urgent if other centres are awaiting results – if urgent processing not available follow ‘no biopsy’ decision pathway

Transplant Surgeon – Complete lesion findings and relevant clinical details on Transplant Centre - National Histopathology Request Form

No

Inform Hub Operations

Hub Operations – Contact ALL accepting centres AND SNOD (via team pager) to inform them of lesion and decision regarding biopsy

Await confirmation from Hub Operations that no other accepting centre wish to process a biopsy prior to transplanting. If transplant time critical, take biopsy prior to transplanting organ to enable another centre to process if desired

Decision to continue with transplant?

Yes

Hub Operations – Inform the transplant centre that identified the suspicious lesion outcome following discussions with other accepting centres

Hub Operations - Arrange movement of organ and/or biopsy sample as per usual process

Histopathology/Recipient Centre - sample arrives at centre and processed

No

Repack organ to enable it to be reoffered or sent for biopsy

Does a centre wish to process biopsy?

Yes

Hub Operations - Accepting centre continue to transplant or offer organ as per national process

No

Hub Operations - Inform Hub Operations - Accepting centre continue to transplant or offer organ as per national process

Responsibilities Key

Transplant Centre

SNOD

Histopathologist

HO

DRD
New Findings Made at Transplant Centres Requiring Histopathology Assessment

Histopathology - When results are available contact the implanting surgeon/recipient coordinator to discuss. Provide preliminary findings and send report/summary to Hub Operations immediately to enable dissemination to relevant centres.

Whilst the results may be directly communicated to a local recipient coordinator/surgeon they MUST also be sent to ODT Hub directly to enable other centres to be informed.

Histopathology - Email a copy/summary of the frozen section report immediately to: odthub.operations@nhsbt.nhs.uk and they will disseminate to all relevant centres/individuals. Include pathologists name and contact number in case surgeon needs to discuss case. Email must include 3 donor identifiers provided on request form.

SNOD/TM (Pager Holder) – Confirm with HO results not received if not seen within expected timescales. If they have not been sent to HO, liaise with centre point of contact that has been given to Hub Ops (when they were initially contacted)

Hub Operations - Send to all accepting centres/NRC/SNBTS/DRD via secure email. Contact all accepting organ centres urgently via phone to ensure receipt.

Histopathology - Email final report to odthub.operations@nhsbt.nhs.uk. Email must include 3 donor identifiers provided on request form.

Hub Operations - Send to all accepting centres/NRC/SNBTS/DRD via secure email. Contact all accepting organ centres urgently via phone to ensure receipt.

DRD – Forward histopathology result to SNOD for information only – as HO will have forwarded to centres.

Lead SNOD – Ensure receipt of final results of any histopathology sent at time of retrieval as per MPD881. Final results are required even if provisional results indicate a benign result.