

RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND NOVEL TECHNOLOGIES ADVISORY GROUP 29TH APRIL 2020

SIX MONTH REVIEW OF ALLOCATION OF RESEARCH ORGANS: OCTOBER 2019 – APRIL 2020

Background

A national research allocation scheme was introduced in 2017 following a review of research offering.

The scheme seeks to allocate organs preferentially to studies that will deliver the biggest benefits to transplantation. It is reviewed annually. Studies are re-ranked twice per year. The last re-ranking went live in October 2019 following the last RINTAG meeting.

Organs are offered by text/email to researchers who have 45 minutes to respond to ODT Hub Operations if they are interested. The highest-ranked responder is allocated the organ.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected organ donation and transplantation, and therefore the number of organs available for research. The effects of this were first felt in March 2020, leading to lower numbers offered in this month than expected. Many studies are currently suspended.

Data and Methods

The data informing RINTAG allocation papers in the past have come from Hub Operations and Statistical and Clinical Studies. One of the National Transplant Liaison Coordinators manually transcribed information from two months of donor notes to identify whether organs had been offered for research, and if so, what their destination was.

Since May 2018, the ODT Research team, who are copied into research offers, have been updating a spreadsheet with the information from these and use EOS to determine where the organs were allocated to.

The data in this paper have come only from the ODT Research team. There may be some organs that were allocated directly to studies without an offer message being sent out, and therefore these will not be included here.

Results

Organs Offered Between 1st October 2019 and 30th March 2020

408 organs from 282 deceased organ donors were offered to researchers through the National Allocation Scheme (NAS) during this time period.

Organ Type	Number Offered
Lungs	9
Hearts	9
Kidneys	188
Livers	124
Pancreases	76
Pancreatic Islets	2

208 of the 408 organs offered for research were accepted by studies on the ODT Research Registry. 193 organs were disposed of. Of the remaining 7 organs:

- 1 liver was used for Organox training in Leeds
- 1 liver was kept for educational purposes by King's
- 1 liver that was transplanted when the recipient centre changed their mind
- 2 livers were returned to the donors' bodies
- 1 heart was used for training purposes by NHSBT's Tissue and Eye Services
- 1 heart was used for valves (which should've occurred before being offered for research)

Organ Type	Number Offered	Number Accepted	% Accepted
Lungs	9	7	78%
Hearts	9	4	44%
Kidneys	188	110	59%
Livers	124	63	51%
Pancreases	76	22	29%
Pancreas Islets	2	2	100%
Total	408	208	51%

72% of organs were offered outside of core hours or over weekends and bank holidays.

67% of organs offered during core hours were accepted, 47% offered outside of core hours were accepted, and 42% of organs offered over weekends and bank holidays were accepted.

Number of Organs Accepted by Each Study Between 1st October and 30th March 2020

Hearts

Study Number	Location	Rank	Number of Offers through the NAS	Organs Received Through the NAS
83	Newcastle	1	9	0
67	Imperial	2	9	4

Notes:

Study 83 is unable to accept hearts that have already been on the Organ Care System (OCS).

Lungs

Study Number	Location	Rank	Number of Offers through the NAS	Organs Received Through the NAS
58	Edinburgh	N/A	9	4
66	Newcastle	N/A	9	3

Notes:

As of the May 2019 RINTAG meeting, the lung studies have agreed to allocate the lungs between themselves.

Livers

Study Number	Location	Rank	Number of Offers through the NAS	Organs Received Through the NAS
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21	Cambridge	1	124	6
52	Newcastle	2	124	5
35	Birmingham	3(=)	124	10
68	King's	3(=)	124	1
50	Royal Free	4	124	0
56	Edinburgh	5	124	4
33/84	Birmingham	6	124	30

Notes:

- Study 68 can only accept liver tissue from King's.

Pancreases and Islets

Study Number	Location	Rank	Number of Offers through the NAS	Organs Received Through the NAS
3	Cambridge	1(=)	78	11
20	Newcastle	1(=)	78	3
34	Worcester	2(=)	78	0
50	Royal Free	2(=)	78	0
85	Edinburgh	2(=)	78	4
82	Oxford	3	78	4
40	Royal Free	4	78	0

Notes:

- Study 40 can only accept tissue from the Royal Free and Great Ormond Street
- Study 34 can only accept tissue with an ischaemic time less than 10 hours

Kidneys

Study Number	Location	Rank	Number of Offers through the NAS	Organs Received Through the NAS
53	Cambridge / Newcastle / Guy's	1	188	2
48	Newcastle	2(=)	188	0
2	Cambridge	2(=)	188	47
23	Cambridge	3(=)	188	15
73	Guy's	3(=)	188	4
63	Guy's	4	188	2
19	Bristol	5	188	8
40	Royal Free	6	188	4
96	Newcastle	7	19	1
93	Glasgow	8	188	2

Notes:

- Study 40 can only accept tissue from the Royal Free and Great Ormond Street
- Study 53 is a study that can transplant and therefore has strict cut-offs for ischaemic time
- Study 96 went live on the 3rd March 2020

Tissue Banks

Study Number	Location	Rank	Organs Received
31	Cardiff	N/A	22
36	Coventry	N/A	6
43	Cambridge	N/A	1

Notes:

- Tissue Bank 31 accepts kidneys only.