

NHS BLOOD & TRANSPLANT
RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND NOVEL TECHNOLOGIES ADVISORY GROUP
RESEARCH CONSENT/AUTHORISATION RATES

SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

- 1 This paper summarises how research consent/authorisation rates have changed over the last ten years in the UK.
- 2 Families can give generic consent/authorisation for research use of any organs that are found to be unsuitable for transplantation. They are only asked this question if consent/authorisation for transplantation has already been ascertained. No organ specific questions are asked regarding research consent/authorisation.

DATA AND METHODS

- 3 Research consent/authorisation rates were analysed for actual organ donors (where at least one organ was retrieved for the purposes of transplantation) in the UK from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2019.
- 4 When considering organ specific consent/authorisation rates, donors with contraindications for specific organs were excluded.

CONCLUSION

- 5 The overall UK consent/authorisation rate for research was 83% in 2010 and has so far risen to 92% in 2019. Over the last few years, England and Wales have had high consent rates for research ranging from 90% to 95%. In the last year, Scotland has had the highest authorisation rate seen for research in the last 10 years at 98% and Northern Ireland has remained at 87%.

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Statistics and Clinical Studies

April 2020

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INTRODUCTION

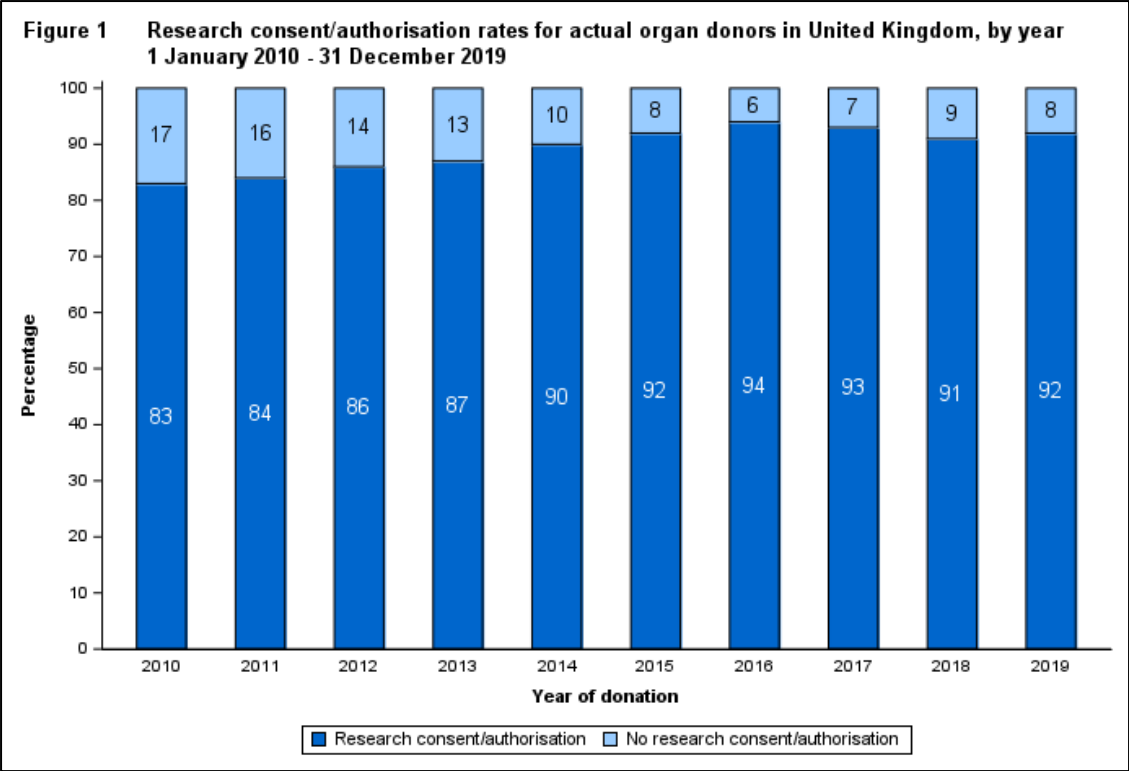
- 1 This paper summarises how research consent/authorisation rates have changed over the last ten years in the UK.
- 2 Families can give generic consent/authorisation for research use of any organs that are found to be unsuitable for transplantation. They are only asked this question if consent/authorisation for transplantation has been ascertained. No organ specific questions are asked regarding research consent/authorisation.

DATA AND METHODS

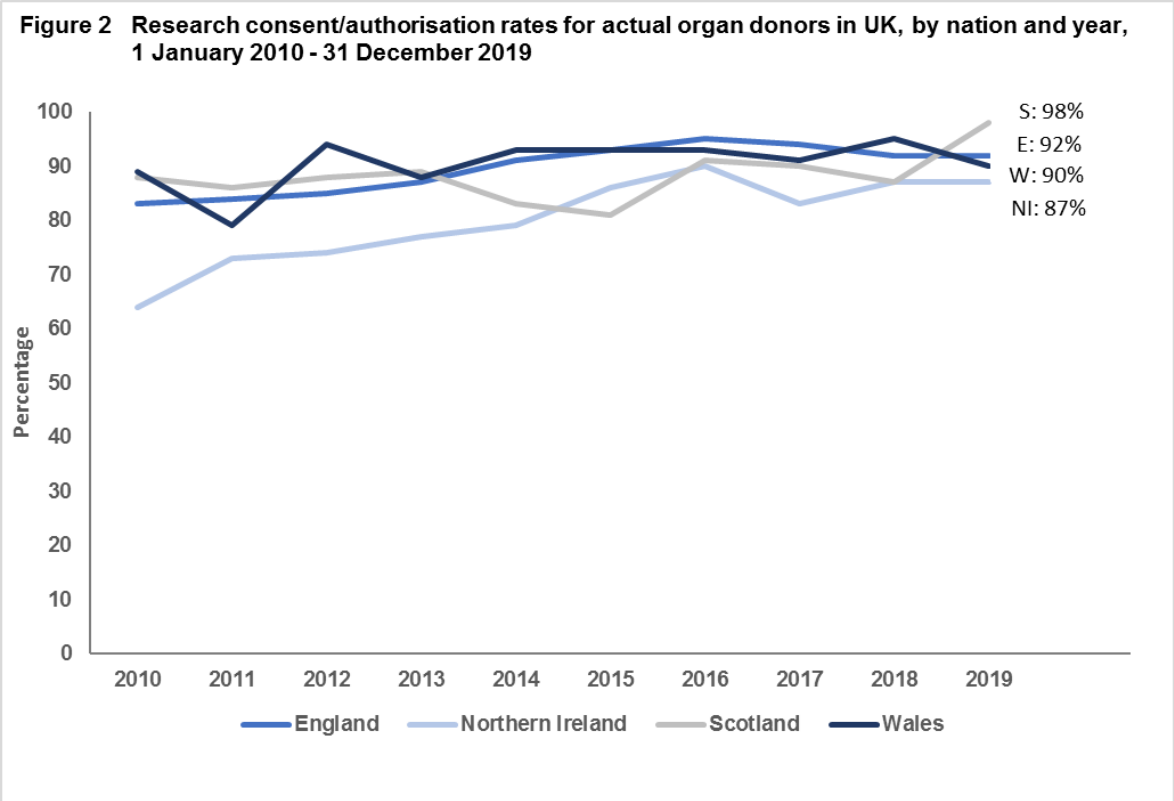
- 3 Research consent/authorisation rates were analysed for actual organ donors (where at least one organ was retrieved for the purposes of transplantation) in the UK from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2019.
- 4 When considering organ-specific consent/authorisation rates, donors with organ-specific contraindications for transplantation were excluded:
 - Intestinal: donors aged ≥ 56 or weighing ≥ 80 kg excluded
 - Pancreas and islets: donors aged >60 excluded
 - Heart: donors aged ≥ 65 or died of myocardial infarction excluded
 - Lung: donors aged ≥ 65 excluded

RESULTS

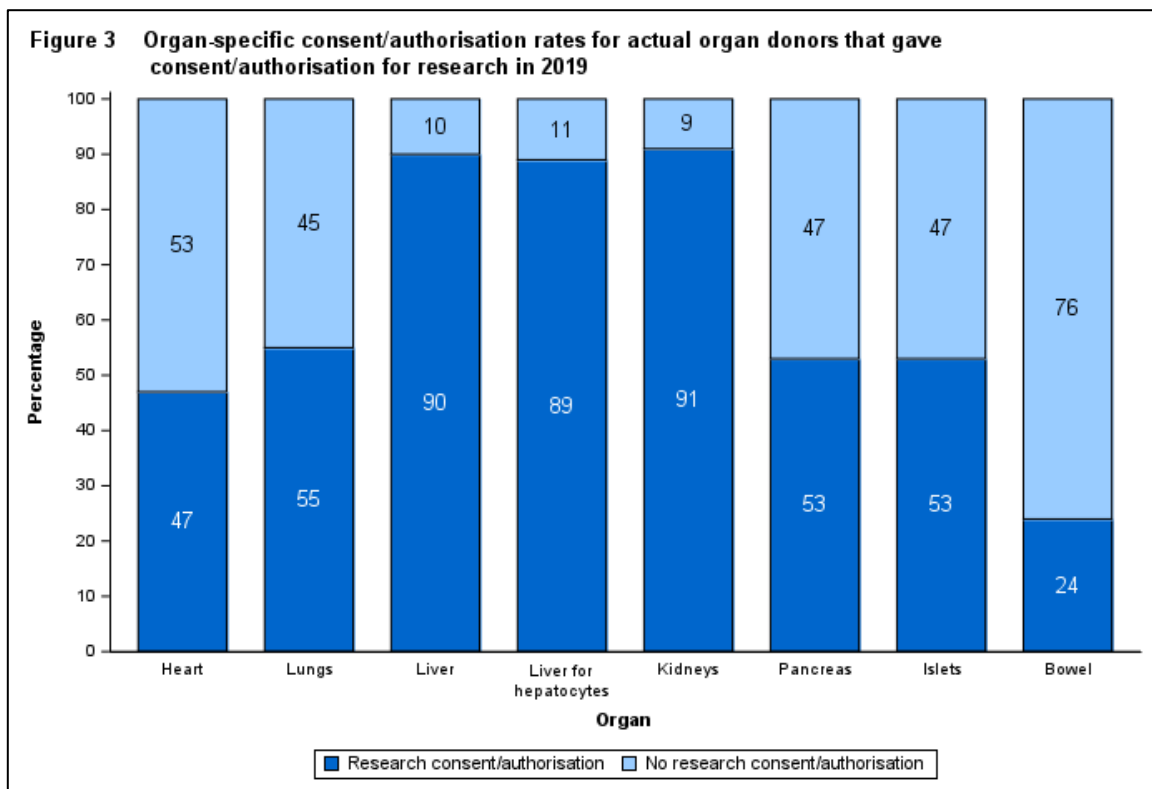
- 5 **Figure 1** illustrates that overall UK research consent/authorisation rates for solid organ donors have generally increased from 83% in 2010 to 92% in 2019. This shows that the large majority of donors that donate at least one solid organ also consent/authorise organs for research.



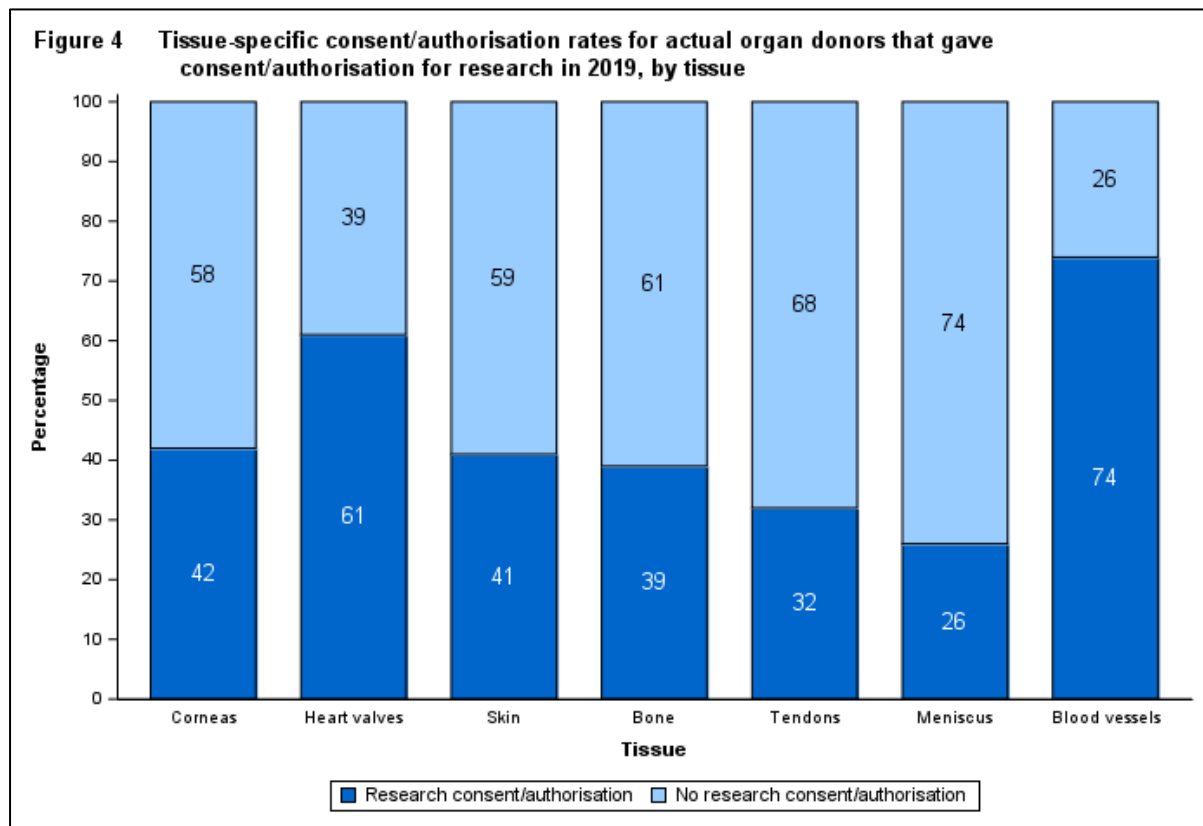
6 **Figure 2** breaks down research consent/authorisation rates for actual organ donors by nation and year. Over the last few years, England and Wales have had high consent rates for research organs ranging from 90% to 95%.



- 7 Over the last 10 years, Northern Ireland has seen an overall increase in the consent rate for research organs, though it remains lower at 87%. In 2019, the authorisation rate for Scotland rose to 98%, the highest rate in 10 years. Rates for Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales fluctuate more as there are fewer donors.
- 8 **Figures 3 and 4** show consent/authorisation rates broken down by organ and tissue, respectively. These rates are shown for actual solid organ donors for which consent/authorisation for research had been ascertained in 2019. However, please note that when discussing organ/tissue-specific consent/authorisation, SNODs ask these questions in relation to donation for transplantation as opposed to research.
- 9 **Figure 3** shows that kidneys (91%) and liver (90%) gained the highest rates of consent/authorisation for actual donors with consent/authorisation for research, cardiothoracic organs are much lower 47% for hearts and 55% for lungs.



10 **Figure 4** illustrates that tissues have lower consent/authorisation rates than solid organs. Please note that this cohort excludes tissue-only donors.



CONCLUSION

11 The overall UK consent/authorisation rate for research was 83% in 2010 and has so far risen to 92% in 2019. Over the last few years, England and Wales have had high consent rates for research ranging from 90% to 95%. In the last year, Scotland has had the highest authorisation rate seen for research in the last 10 years at 98% and Northern Ireland has remained at 87%.

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