

## MULTI-VISCERAL AND COMPOSITE TISSUE ADVISORY GROUP

Dear Members,

In brief, we have decided to reopen the UK Hand Transplant service that was temporarily suspended earlier in the year amid fears over immunosuppression in the time of Sar-Cov-2.

We now know a little more about the risks having seen results from Italy and France, and from the UK NHSBT study, and the recent Nature paper.

We are of course conscious that the transplantation of upper limbs does not confer any immediate life-saving benefit, but equally we are aware of the substantial benefits it does offer. As you will see we have settled on a principle of allowing the best-informed-possible patients to share the decision about transplantation at this time. We thereby respect their autonomy, although we also will explain the lower risks in the younger patient and the greater benefits in the more affected cases.

Of course, we will also adhere to our core principle of not allowing HAUL-Tx to interfere with life-prolonging or life-saving care, and so we will not accept offers in the absence of adequate local critical care and nursing provision.

As I say in the presentation we are new to the world of transplantation and so I wanted to give the committee members a chance to offer advice or criticism of our decision to reopen, and any such input will be gratefully received and considered carefully.

With many thanks

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