

Outcomes of the collaborative Guy's and Leeds program for en-bloc renal transplants from donors less than 2 years of age

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Introduction:

In November 2017, Guy's Hospital, London and Leeds Teaching Hospitals were designated by NHSBT as the two national centres for renal transplant from donors less than 2 years of age. A collaborative program was set up between the two centres with sharing of experience and protocols, and ongoing close communication. This study reports the results of this program 2 years after its inception.

Methods:

Data on kidney offers from donors less than 2 years of age was obtained from NHSBT. Outcome data was collected prospectively by both centres. A review of previous UK results performed prior to start of the program resulted in an agreement by both centres that the lower donor age limit for the program would be 1 month. All transplants were carried out as en-bloc implants.

Results:

Between November 2017 and November 2019 there were 16 offers of en-bloc kidneys from donors between 1 month and 2 years of age. 8 (50%) of these were accepted for transplant by either Guy's or Leeds. 2 of these did not proceed to transplant, one due to damage and one due to prolonged time to asystole. Of the 6 en-bloc transplants that proceeded, the median donor age was 13.5 months (range 1-23) and median weight was 9.75kg (range 3.6-12). Three were from DCD and 3 from DBD donors. All 6 transplants had immediate function and graft and patient survival is 100% with a median follow-up of 419 days. Median creatinine showed an improvement over time: 129.5 umol/L at 1 month, 102.5 at 3 months and 86 umol/L at 6 months.

Conclusion:

Graft outcomes of the collaborative program are excellent, justifying the use of this source of kidneys to expand the donor pool. Further work is required to promote organ donation from this group of patients and refine donor selection.