

NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT

KIDNEY ADVISORY GROUP

LATE NOTIFICATION OF PANCREASES SPLIT FROM POTENTIAL MULTI-VISCERAL BLOCS

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Cambridge is the only unit in the UK performing multivisceral transplants (liver + small intestine + pancreas +/- stomach +/- colon) in adults. On occasion, Cambridge list patients for multivisceral transplantation due to portal vein thromboses (acute or chronic). These patients will generally go on to receive the planned multivisceral bloc, but there is a possibility that during the recipient's dissection phase it is decided that a liver-only transplant would be sufficient (i.e. less extensive PV thrombosis than originally thought). This decision is commonly made within an hour or so of cross-clamp in the DBD donor (the donor and recipient operations proceed almost simultaneously due to the limited cold ischaemic time tolerance of the intestinal allograft).

BACKGROUND

- 2 If a pancreas is made available for offering soon after donor cross-clamping, it is currently offered to the pancreas only list. There may be limited time for any accepting implanting centre to call in a suitable recipient (and arrange PBL samples for cross-matching). In addition, the number of patients on the pancreas-only waiting list is low in the UK (currently 13 patients). Multivisceral donors are almost invariably young (less than 55 years of age), slim, and with favourable co-morbidities. Pancreases from these donors are often less suitable for islet isolation due to low BMIs.

PROPOSAL

- 3 If the kidneys have not been placed at the point when the pancreas has been identified as not required for the multivisceral transplant, then simultaneous kidney/pancreas offers should be made to the kidney/pancreas list. At this point, Hub Operations are to ensure offers not made or previously declined for the kidney only are considered now pancreas and kidney available.
- 4 To increase the potential for the availability of the kidneys, Cambridge should flag with Hub Operations that the pancreas is not required as early as possible.
- 5 If the kidneys have been placed, then the pancreas is to be offered as a pancreas only as per the current process.

ACTION

- 6 KAG members are asked to consider the proposal of allowing one kidney to be offered with the pancreas in cases where only a liver is required for a multivisceral transplant.

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