

COVID - 19 – A Vaccine Special Supplement

Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Directorate

08 July 2021

Message from OTDT Medical Director Professor John Forsythe

Dear Colleagues

I wanted to write out to give you an update surrounding vaccinations in both recipients and donors. Further information is also provided in the attached documents and the article linked below.

As ever, thank you for your continued hard work and dedication throughout the pandemic.

With kind regards,

John Forsythe

Organ transplantation from donors with vaccine-induced thrombosis and thrombocytopenia

The UK transplant communities have collaborated with unprecedented speed to study the implications of a new disease on organ transplantation. Rapid data collection and valuable input from our haematology colleagues enabled timely analysis of emerging evidence on the outcomes of organs transplanted from deceased donors with vaccine-induced thrombosis and thrombocytopenia (VITT). Our findings underpin new UK guidance on organ retrieval and recipient monitoring (available at: <https://www.odt.nhs.uk/covid-19-advice-for-clinicians/>). Sharing our experience will also benefit the international transplant community as we encounter another consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many thanks to colleagues within the UK transplant and haematology communities who supported this collaborative work.

Further information on early post-transplant outcomes of organs transplanted from donors with VITT is available in this article: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/ajt.16735>

Important Information on Vaccine effectiveness in Waiting List and Transplant Patients

I'm sure many of you are aware of emerging laboratory data showing differences in spike protein antibody levels post SARS-CoV-2 vaccination in transplant recipients vs healthy adults. Thus far it is not known whether such laboratory readouts translate to material impact on real world vaccine efficacy in immunosuppressed (SOT recipients) or immunocompromised (patients with advanced organ disease on waiting list for transplantation).

A registry enabled study provides a pragmatic and near real time method of prospectively tracking new SARS-CoV-2 infections in vaccinated vs un-vaccinated SOT & WL patients. After successful linkage of OTDT, PHE, NIMS and NHS Digital registries recently, analysis indicates patients who receive both vaccine doses are significantly less likely to die due to COVID-19 in comparison to un-vaccinated individuals. Further, there is evidence of geographical and ethnicity variation *in vaccine penetration*. We hope this dataset will help clinical teams to reassure patients on vaccine efficacy as well as target efforts to strongly encourage currently un-vaccinated patients to take up the offer of both vaccine doses. It may also help centres in regions with less than average vaccine penetration to plan and prepare for COVID-19 related hospital admissions over the next few weeks as a result of current Delta variant surge.

Details on methodology, relevant caveats and results are in the attached presentation. Also attached is a joint NHSBT/BTS patient facing communication statement that will be available on NHSBT and BTS websites and circulated to patient groups today.

Further detailed analysis of the linked dataset including, between organ and vaccine type differences, any demographic risk signals, risk associated with transplant vintage or immunosuppression type etc will be undertaken and shared as soon as available. At this time we are unable to answer queries on such detail but fully remain committed to investigating and

reporting on these variables as soon as possible. If you have any queries on the attached information please contact Rommel.ravanan@nbt.nhs.uk and/or Lisa.mumford@nhsbt.nhs.uk

COVID – 19 Activity Summary

As you can see from the latest data, donation and transplant numbers have risen again. We continue to monitor the numbers so we can any action required to continue to keep numbers up.

Figure 1 Effect CoVID-19 has on Deceased Donation and Transplantation
Number of deceased donors and transplants by week since 1 April 2019

