

NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT
CARDIOTHORACIC ADVISORY GROUP
UK FAST TRACK SCHEME – LUNGS

BACKGROUND

- 1 The UK operates a Fast Track Scheme (FTS) for offering cardiothoracic organs available with short notice to all transplant centres in the UK simultaneously. The FTS is used for any hearts or lungs referred to NHS Blood and Transplant which are to be removed from the donor within 90 minutes of the referral, already removed, or in the process of removal. This report summarises fast track lung offering activity for the last two financial years, 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2016.

METHODS

- 2 Data on all fast track offers of lungs and heart/lung blocks from UK deceased donors after brain-death (DBD) made to UK centres, between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2016, were obtained from the UK Transplant Registry. Lungs that were only fast tracked overseas were excluded. Details of the organs offered, the reasons the organs were offered through the FTS and the organ outcomes were collated. The number of lungs offered is counted individually, irrespective of whether they were offered as individual organs, as heart/lung blocks or as lung pairs.

RESULTS**UK Fast Track Activity**

- 3 316 offers of 76 lungs (34 double lungs and 8 single lungs) were made through the UK FTS during the time period. The number of offers made to each centre and the number of organs offered in total are detailed in **Table 1**.

Transplant centre	Offers to the centre
Birmingham, Queen Elizabeth Hospital	68
London, Great Ormond Street	39
London, Harefield Hospital	45
Manchester, Wythenshawe Hospital	61
Newcastle, Freeman Hospital	48
Papworth, Papworth Hospital	55
TOTAL OFFERS	316
No. lungs offered	76

- 4 The number of retrieved DBD lungs fast tracked each year as a percentage of all DBD lungs retrieved is shown in **Table 2** for the last five financial years. The percentage of retrieved lungs that have been fast tracked peaked at 9% in 2011/12 but has since dropped to 5%.

Donation year	Retrieved	Fast tracked	% Fast tracked
2011/12	324	29	9
2012/13	338	18	5
2013/14	374	18	5
2014/15	304	19	6
2015/16	313	17	5
TOTAL	1653	101	6

Organ Outcome

- 5 Eight of the 76 lungs offered (2 double lungs, 4 single lungs) were accepted and transplanted. None of the declined lungs were subsequently fast tracked to Europe.
- 6 Eight lungs were fast tracked after cross clamp and 44 lungs within 90 minutes of crossclamp. The decision to fast track the 20 lungs more than 90 minutes before cross clamp was taken at the request of the Specialist Nurse in Organ Donation (SN-OD). Where time of aortic cross clamp is not known, perfusion of abdominal organs has been used as a proxy for this time.
- 7 Full details of each fast tracked lung are given in **Appendix I (removed as patient specific)**. 47 lungs were fast tracked because of the function of the organ.

CONCLUSIONS

- 8 76 lungs were fast tracked through the UK FTS over a two year period, (34 double lungs and 8 single lungs). Eight organs were transplanted through the fast track scheme.
- 9 The FTS is not used excessively, only 6% of retrieved lungs were fast tracked during the last two financial years.