

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

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 heart offering activity for the last two financial years, 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2016.

METHODS

- 2 Data on all fast track offers of hearts and heart/lung blocks available 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. Hearts 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 hearts offered is counted individually, irrespective of whether they were offered as individual organs or as heart/lung blocks.

RESULTS**UK Fast Track Activity**

- 3 184 offers of 33 hearts 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	27
Glasgow, Golden Jubilee National Hospital	24
London, Great Ormond Street	23
London, Harefield Hospital	25
Manchester, Wythenshawe Hospital	29
Newcastle, Freeman Hospital	28
Papworth, Papworth Hospital	28
TOTAL OFFERS	184
No. hearts offered	33

- 4 The number of retrieved DBD hearts fast tracked each year as a percentage of all DBD hearts retrieved is shown in **Table 2** for the last five financial years. The percentage of retrieved hearts that have been fast tracked has increased over the period, reaching a peak of 5% in 2015/16.

Donation year	Retrieved	Fast tracked	% Fast tracked
2011/12	136	4	3
2012/13	144	4	3
2013/14	203	4	2
2014/15	174	6	3
2015/16	187	9	5
TOTAL	844	27	3

Organ Outcome

- 5 Six of the 33 hearts offered through the FTS between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2016 were accepted for transplantation, three of which were transplanted. None of the declined hearts were subsequently fast tracked to Europe.
- 6 Four hearts were fast tracked after crossclamp and 9 hearts within 90 minutes of crossclamp. The decision to fast track 19 hearts more than 90 minutes before crossclamp was taken at the request of the Specialist Nurse in Organ Donation (SN-OD). Timing for one heart was unknown. 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 heart is given in **Appendix I (removed as patient specific)**. 12 hearts were fast tracked because of the function of the organ.

CONCLUSIONS

- 8 33 hearts were fast tracked through the UK FTS over a two year period. Three hearts were transplanted through the fast track scheme.
- 9 The FTS is not used excessively, only 4% of retrieved hearts were fast tracked during the last two financial years.