

QUality in Organ Donation (QUOD)

Information Leaflet for recipients of livers from donors participating in QUOD



You are being provided with this information leaflet because you may be offered a liver that has been included in the Quality in Organ Donation (QUOD) research programme. If this is the case, relatives of the donor will have agreed for small samples of their loved one's organs to be removed and used for research.

The purpose of the QUOD programme is to provide a resource that can support research to improve outcomes of transplantation in the future. This research lets us look at what factors influence success and failure of organ transplantation, and how injury to donated organs can be prevented. For this work, we need to study biological material from the organ donor.

Despite efforts by many, we still face a persistent donor organ shortage in the UK. However, there may be things that we can do prior to organ transplantation that will improve the quality of organs and help us to better understand how we can improve the function of a transplant. To help doctors learn more about this requires research on samples from organs that will be transplanted.

Please take the time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. If anything is not clear or if you would like more information, please ask your clinical team.

What does taking part involve?

After agreement from the organ donor's relatives, the medical team has taken very small tissue samples of the kidney, ureter, liver, heart and spleen as well as some blood, urine and lung washing samples. Some samples were taken in the intensive care unit (blood and urine) and the tissue samples were taken after the donor operation when the donor organs are removed for transplantation. The tissue samples are approximately the size of a matchstick head. We will allow research groups to use these samples in order to understand how organs undergo changes during the donation process and whether it is possible to prevent damage, and improve organ function after transplantation.

What are the additional risks or burdens from receiving a liver from a donor taking part in QUOD?

There is a very small risk at the time of transplantation of minor bleeding or bile leakage from the biopsy site (one in every 634 biopsies), we have never observed significant bleeding requiring intervention or a prolonged hospital stay, following a QUOD liver biopsy.

Your surgical team takes similar biopsies on a routine basis and has been trained for this procedure. The risks are minimised because the site where the biopsy is taken can be seen and if necessary, any required action can be taken straight away.

If you have any further question as regards the QUOD programme or want more details about the operation, please ask your clinical team.

Will my personal details be affected?

No. We do not require any personal details from you. We will however request anonymous clinical data relating to the outcome of the transplant to study the factors which influence the outcome after organ transplantation.

How can I find out about the results of the research projects?

More information about QUOD is available at www.quod.org.uk

Results of the research projects which use QUOD samples will also be published there.

If you do not have access to the internet or if you would like to receive further information or provide feedback on your personal experience of the QUOD programme, please contact your clinical team.

Who is funding and organising the study?

The QUOD Programme is funded by NHS Blood and Transplant and concerns a collaboration of the following institutions:

University of Cambridge
University of Edinburgh
Kings College London
Newcastle University
University of Oxford (Lead)
Oxford University Hospitals
Royal Free London
University Hospitals Birmingham
Cardiff University
Leeds Teaching Hospitals
Central Manchester University Hospitals

Who has reviewed the study?

The study has been reviewed by the North West – GM Central Research Ethics Committee (ref 23/NW/0097) and the Scotland A Research Ethics Committee (ref 20/SS/0105).

Contact the Principal Investigator / QUOD Team

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