

NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT

LIVER ADVISORY GROUP

DCD LIVER AND KIDNEY OFFERING

BACKGROUND

1. Since the National Liver Offering Scheme was introduced on 20 March 2018, one kidney from DBD donors is reserved for liver patients only if one of the top three ranking recipients on the elective list require a kidney. The kidney will become available for kidney patients after 60 minutes, or once it has been declined for the liver/kidney patient. The offer is provisional and subject to there not being high priority patients on the National Kidney Waiting List (Tiers A-C under previous scheme and Tier A in the new offering scheme).
2. Following a review, it was agreed at the May 2021 Liver Advisory Group that, subject to there not being high priority patients on the National Kidney Waiting List, a kidney from DCD donor should be reserved until the zonal and linked centres had declined the kidney. This change was implemented on 1 November 2021 and this paper examines the kidney donor risk indices for donors offered during the first 24 months.

METHODS

3. Data on all UK donors after circulatory death (DCD) where the liver and kidneys were offered between 1 November 2021 and 31 October 2023 were extracted from the UK Transplant Registry on 6 November 2023. Donors where only the liver (N=77) or only the kidneys (N=155) were offered were excluded. Note that organs other than liver and kidney may be retrieved but are not mentioned below.

RESULTS

4. Liver and kidneys were offered from 1810 UK DCD donors between 1 November 2021 and 31 October 2023. Of the 1810 donors, 726 (40%) donors were liver and kidney(s) donors, 20 (1%) were liver only donors and 523 (29%) were kidney only donors. Both liver and kidneys were transplanted from 443 (61%) of the 726 donors where both organs were retrieved and 3 of the 443 resulted in Simultaneous Liver and kidney (SLK) transplants.
5. **Table 1** shows the kidney donor risk index for donors where both organs were offered, retrieved and transplanted while **Table 2** shows the details of the three SLK transplants. All three transplants were performed at one centre and none of the SLK transplants involved D4 donors.
6. During the time period, thirteen SLK transplants involving donors after brain death were performed in the UK at 5 transplant centres.

ACTION

7. Members are asked to advise whether kidneys from D4 DCD donors should be offered directly to the kidney offering scheme and not reserved until the zonal and linked liver transplant centres declined the kidney.

Table 1				
Kidney donor risk index for donors where both liver and kidneys were offered, 1 November 2021 to 31 October 2023				
Kidney donor risk index	No. where liver and kidney (s) offered	N (%) donors where both liver and kidney (s) retrieved	N (%) donors where both liver and kidney (s) transplanted	N (%) donors where liver and kidney transplanted as an SLK
1	382	215 (56%)	151 (70%)	1 (1%)
2	391	177 (45%)	105 (59%)	1 (1%)
3	465	182 (39%)	107 (59%)	1 (1%)
4	566	152 (27%)	80 (53%)	0
Missing	6	0	0	0
Total	1810	726 (40%)	443 (61%)	3 (1%)

Table 2			
Details of SLK DCD transplants performed in the UK since 1 November 2021			
Donor	Donation date	Kidney donor risk index	Transplant centre
1	October 2022	3	Cambridge
2	January 2023	2	Cambridge
3	June 2023	1	Cambridge