

NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT

CARDIOTHORACIC ADVISORY GROUP

UK FAST TRACK SCHEME

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 within 90 minutes of the referral, already removed, or in the process of removal. This report summarises fast track offer activity for the last two financial years, 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2014.

METHODS

- 2 Data on all fast track offers of cardiothoracic organs available from deceased donors after brain-death in the UK, made to UK centres between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2014 were obtained from the UK Transplant Registry. Offers of organs fast tracked overseas, having first been offered routinely to all UK and Republic of Ireland centres, 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 and lungs offered are counted individually, irrespective of whether they were offered as individual organs, as heart/lung blocks or as lung pairs.

RESULTS

UK Fast Track Activity

- 3 267 offers of 58 cardiothoracic organs (19 hearts and 39 lungs (19 double lungs and 1 single lung)) were made through the UK FTS to cardiothoracic transplant centres in the UK. The number of offers made to each centre and the number of organs offered in total are detailed in **Table 1**.

Table 1 Number of cardiothoracic fast track offers, 1 April 2012 - 31 March 2014			
Transplant centre	Offers to the centre		Total
	Heart	Lung	
Birmingham, Queen Elizabeth Hospital	17	33	50
Glasgow, Golden Jubilee National Hospital	17	0	17
London, Great Ormond Street	12	24	36
London, Harefield Hospital	15	27	42
Manchester, Wythenshawe Hospital	17	31	48
Newcastle, Freeman Hospital	19	30	49
Papworth, Papworth Hospital	9	16	25
TOTAL OFFERS	106	161	267
No. of organs offered	19	39	58

- 4 The number of cardiothoracic organs fast tracked each year, as a percentage of all organs retrieved, is shown in **Table 2** for the last five financial years. When looking at

hearts and lungs together, the overall percentage of cardiothoracic organs fast tracked in 2013/14 is higher than in the previous four financial years (7% versus 2% in both 2010/11 and 2011/12).

Table 2 Use of the UK Fast Track Scheme, 1 April 2009 - 31 March 2014							
Donation year	Number of hearts			Number of lungs			Total
	Retrieved ¹	Fast tracked	% Fast tracked	Retrieved ¹	Fast tracked	% Fast tracked	% Fast tracked
2009/2010	120	3	3	300	18	6	5
2010/2011	131	5	4	318	6	2	2
2011/2012	143	2	1	339	6	2	2
2012/2013	151	6	4	344	8	2	3
2013/2014	217	13	6	403	31	8	7
TOTAL	762	29	4	1704	69	4	4

¹ Deceased donor and domino organs retrieved for transplant in the UK, including those fast tracked on the point of retrieval

Organ Outcome

- 5 Three of the 19 hearts offered through the FTS between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2014 were accepted for transplantation, two of which were transplanted. Two of the 39 lungs offered (1 double lung) were accepted and transplanted. Three organs (1 heart and 1 double lung) were fast tracked to Europe. One double lung was re-offered to all centres at the retrieval surgeon's request due to an improvement in function.
- 6 Seven organs were fast tracked after crossclamp and twenty four organs within 90 minutes of crossclamp. The decision to fast track the twenty two cardiothoracic organs more than 90 minutes before crossclamp was taken at the request of the Specialist Nurse in Organ Donation (SN-OD). Timings for three organs were unknown. Twelve organs were fast tracked because of the function of the organ.

CONCLUSIONS

- 8 58 organs were fast tracked through the UK FTS over a two year period, 19 hearts and 39 lungs (19 double lungs and 1 single lung). Three organs were transplanted through the fast track scheme.
- 9 The FTS is not used excessively, only 5% hearts and lungs were fast tracked during the last two financial years.

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