

Clinical Governance Report for CTAG – Lung April 2015

In the six months to the end of March 2015, there were 18 Incidents reported to NHSBT which included the Lung as a key-word. This is a greater number compared with the previous numbers of lung-related incidents. But closer examination reveals that many did not involve the lung at all. The lung is mentioned in the setting of a multi-organ donor.

Many of these Incidents also had the heart as a key-word, so have been discussed.

An analysis of all the Incidents has been performed, and some key issues or recurring trends for the lung specifically identified.

Retrieval Injury.

A visiting cardiac surgeon damaged the lung to a point where it could not be used – still under investigation.

Inadvertent ligation of the right upper lobe artery. This was recognised and corrected after implantation, although at a cost of considerable blood loss and reperfusion injury.

Height measurement

Two instances of donor height being wrongly measured. One was because the height (190cm) was greater than the length of the standard NHSBT measuring tape.

Lung retrieval and NRP

A reported Incident revealed that the retrieving surgeon did not know of the national protocol. There have been at least two others, unreported but problematic retrievals, and this has provoked an examination of the national protocol. To be raised under DCD Lung Retrieval.

Late Decline

Change of mind at a recipient centre over appropriate size of donor for a recipient resulted in re-offering and a delay in retrieval.

Challenge of decision to turn down lungs

A SNOD team could not understand why good lungs from a young donor were not used. This is an unusual but not unreasonable addition to Governance. Resolved by reporting the donor audit at the recipient centre back to the SNOD team.

Details of key Incidents will be presented.

Members of CTAG are reminded that reporting Incidents serves a valuable purpose for the whole transplant community, allowing recurrent concerns to be identified at an early stage, and providing a means of learning from others.