



CTAG
13th April 2016

DCD Heart Retrieval Update

1 Executive Summary

This paper provides an overview of the DCD Heart Retrieval evaluation to date, summarising activity since the programme started in February 2015 and since the NHSBT agreed evaluation began on 1st December 2015. It also provides a timeline of the steps to Business Case presentation to the 4 UK Health Departments.

2. Action Requested

CTAG are asked to note the contents of the paper.

3. DCD Heart Retrieval Update

The agreed service evaluation period for DCD Heart Retrieval began on 1st December 2016. Funding was made available to the end of March 2016 by NHSBT to fund up to a further 10 DCD Hearts within the programme. If these were achieved it would bring the total retrievals for evaluation, since launch of the programme in February 2015, to 24.

Since the 1st December, 7 additional retrievals have taken place; Papworth have undertaken 6 of those and Harefield have undertaken 1. Harefield were initially referred more but were not available to attend and these were then re-offered to Papworth.

The number of DCD heart retrievals has been lower than initially anticipated due to donor suitability. Discussions around the feasibility of widening the zone in the short time frame available took place at the Steering Group and it was noted that the practice of where life support is withdrawn is a significant limiting factor in some areas. Following initial investigation the donor pool was extended to Nottingham. Support at Nottingham by the CLOD and Regional Manager enabled readiness for 1st March, since when two donors have been referred and one has led to retrieval.

It had been hoped that negotiations with Transmedics would result in support for the DCD Heart Retrieval programme by funding additional consumables (at £32,520 each) once NHSBT funding came to an end at 31st Mar 2016. Although discussions have taken place with Transmedics there has been no change to their original offer of two units to each centre for every eight funded by NHSBT as part of the evaluation from 1 December.

In total since the DCD Heart Retrieval Programme began in Feb 2015 there have been 22 DCD hearts retrieved which has resulted in 20 additional heart transplants that would otherwise not have been undertaken. There were 10 retrievals using NRP and 10 using the direct procurement method. Of the 22 hearts retrieved one was not used and 1 transplanted patient died (this was a re-transplant). Of the retrieved organs transplanted 4 of these were at Harefield and 16 at Papworth.

4. Post March 2016

Papworth and Harefield are both keen to maintain the momentum and build on the experience that has been gained over the period that the DCD heart programme has been underway. Although it has been highlighted that there can be no financial support from NHSBT for the Transmedics machine consumables, it is likely that the teams will pursue internal funding to continue until such time that the Business Case is considered by the Health Departments.

Support has been agreed from NHSBT in the following areas:

Organ Donation Team

Donors will continue to be identified from the current pool of hospitals in the Eastern, London and South East region as well as Nottingham, where there has been a recent donor.

NORS Team

Support retrieval of DCD Hearts by NORS team members in Harefield and Papworth, where experience has been gained.

Transport

Transport costs for the DCD Retrievals will continue to be funded.

The financial extent of the support will be to continue to fund transport costs of the Team/Transmedics OCS machine until funding of DCD Hearts is agreed by the 4 Health Departments or 31st Mar 2017 – whichever is the earlier.

The Steering Group have agreed that data should continue to be evaluated for any additional retrievals, which could further strengthen the Business Case. Both Harefield and Papworth have provided a commitment that any data would be captured and provided to NHSBT for analysis.

5. Production of the Business Case

Since Feb 2015 there have been 22 DCD heart retrievals and 20 successful transplants, from a small pool of donor hospitals within London, South East and Eastern areas and latterly Nottingham.

Initial analysis from the service evaluation appears to demonstrate that DCD heart retrieval and transplantation is safe in terms of patient outcomes and that there does not appear to be any adverse impact on retrieval of other organs, although numbers are too small to provide statistical evidence.

The Steering Group is preparing a Business Case to be presented to the four UK Health Departments for consideration of continued funding to enable commissioning of the service.

The following timeline is envisaged for progression of the DCD Heart Retrieval Business Case:

31 March	Project closed
2 May	Deadline for receiving data
10 May	RINTAG update/Presentation of Outline Business Case
2 June	Statistical analysis agreed by Steering Group
24 June	Draft business case to the Sustainable Funding Board
6 July	NRG update
28 July	Business case to the NHSBT Board
September	Business case to the four Departments

The timeline is ambitious and the successful production of the final Business Case will depend on parties involved in the service evaluation working efficiently together.

Author

Debbie McGuckin,
Senior Commissioning Manager, NHSBT