

**NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT
ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION DIRECTORATE
BOWEL ADVISORY GROUP**

SMALL BOWEL ONLY TRANSPLANTATION IN EUROPEAN RECIPIENTS

BACKGROUND

- 1 Currently, a small bowel from a UK donor can be offered to a European patient once it has been declined by all centres in the UK. For anatomical reasons, when the small bowel is taken for transplantation the pancreas head / vessels are usually taken and this causes damage to the pancreas making it unsuitable for whole organ transplant. The remaining part of the pancreas can be used in some circumstances for islet transplantation.
- 2 On 17 August 2013 a small bowel was offered to Eurotransplant once it had been declined by all UK centres. This prompted the question 'if the small bowel was accepted, what would happen to the pancreas as it had been offered as a simultaneous kidney/pancreas (SPK) to a UK centre?'. The decision was made that if the pancreas was damaged then the kidney would be offered on. The small bowel offer was accepted by Austria but subsequently declined due to their being no time to x-match the recipient. The pancreas resulted in a SPK transplant at Oxford.
- 3 Since the introduction of the National Bowel Allocation Scheme on 22 July 2013 it is felt that there will be more opportunity for small bowels to be offered to Europe, although it is unclear how often this will occur.
- 4 This paper reports the current practice of retrieval of the small bowel for use in a small bowel only UK recipient to give an idea as to what impact this has on the pancreas.

DATA

- 5 Data were obtained from the UK Transplant Registry on 16 small bowel only transplants that took place in the UK between 1 January 2012 and 30 September 2013 in order to identify the current impact retrieving the small bowel has on the pancreas.

RESULTS

- 6 Of the 16 small bowel only transplants that took place 3 pancreases from the same donors resulted in a transplant. One as an SPK transplant, one as a pancreas alone transplant and one as an islet transplant. Of the remaining 13 pancreases:
 - a. 9 pancreas heads were taken with the small bowel and the rest of the pancreas was offered for islet transplantation but not transplanted (5

due to insufficient islet yield, 2 unable to purify and 2 due to no suitable recipients).

- b. 3 pancreases were damaged and not suitable for transplant.
- c. 1 pancreas was not damaged but not transplanted due to donor cause of death.

- 7 The median BMI of the 16 donors was 21.3 (IQ Range: 19.6 - 22.1) and the median age was 20 years (IQ range: 14 - 30).

ACTION

- 8 Members are asked to consider the information presented and make any recommendations they feel appropriate with regard to whether the small bowel should be offered to a European recipient if this results in the pancreas becoming unusable in a UK recipient.

Lisa Bradbury
Statistics and Clinical Studies

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