

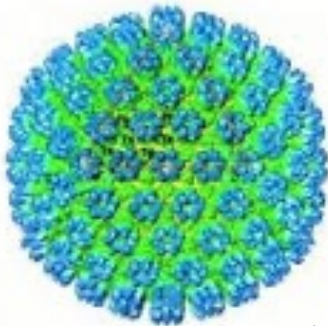
Cautionary Tales

Sharing learning from events across the organ donation and transplantation pathway

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We have recently had the Joint British Transplant Society (BTS) and NHSBT Congress in Brighton. A chance for those within Organ Donation and Transplantation to meet, share and learn from each other. It again reminded us of all of the people, at the heart of everything we do; whether that is the donor, the donor family, the recipient or the staff working within the pathway.

Without people organ donation and transplantation wouldn't happen. We sometimes forget that, and the focus can be of the complex processes or expensive novel technologies, but putting people first can often be one of the most important things we can do to improve patient safety.



Human Herpes Virus 8 (HHV-8)

Most will be aware that in June 2023, NHSBT initiated routine testing of all deceased organ donors for HHV-8 antibodies immediately post-donation.

Prior to this, HHV-8 was not routinely tested within the UK. However, thorough investigation of more than 15 clusters of serious clinical infections in solid organ transplant recipients, enabled correct assignment of HHV-8 serostatus in all cases investigated by NHSBT. This alongside wider evaluation work led to the commissioning of a working group by SaBTO to look at HHV-8 in solid organ transplantation. This culminated in a recommendation to start screening deceased organ donors.

This month the new 'Information about HHV-8 virus for people having a liver transplant' was published on the ODT microsite. This has been developed to provide those on the liver transplant list with some key information. It can now be found here under 'HHV8 infection – guidance for clinicians'

<https://www.odt.nhs.uk/transplantation/tools-policies-and-guidance/policies-and-guidance/>

To allow us to collate further information in relation to HHV-8 in solid organ transplantation, please ensure all cases of recipient HHV-8 infection and development of HHV-8 associated disease are reported to NHSBT via the online incident reporting form.

Learning point



- New information for patients being listed for liver transplant now available
- NHSBT/BTS joint consensus document for management of HHV-8 in solid organ transplantation is also available on the microsite
- Report all cases of recipient HHV-8 infection and development of HHV-8 associated disease are reported to NHSBT via the online incident reporting form
<https://safe.nhsbt.nhs.uk/IncidentSubmission/Pages/IncidentSubmissionForm.aspx>

The OTDT Clinical Governance team's name and job titles have recently been changed. The change will be to simply change the term "Clinical Governance" for "Patient Safety" which of course continues to encompass donors, and donor families as well as recipients.



The main reason for this is this better reflects what the team do which is of course all about patient safety. Alongside this change, the email has been updated to PatientSafety.OTDT@nhsbt.nhs.uk. This will continue to include OTDT QA who we work closely with.

The old Clinical Governance email will remain in use for a period during the changeover.