

NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT

CARDIOTHORACIC ADVISORY GROUP

SUMMARY FROM STATISTICS AND CLINICAL RESEARCH

INTRODUCTION

1. This paper provides an update from Statistics and Clinical Research and summarises recent presentations, publications, and current and future work in the area of cardiothoracic transplantation.

UPDATE FROM STATISTICS AND CLINICAL RESEARCH

2. New and updated reports, all Advisory Group papers and conference presentations continue to be posted on the ODT Clinical Site www.odt.nhs.uk.
3. Since the last CTAG-Heart meeting, the Annual Report on Mechanical Circulatory Support Related to Heart Transplantation was published in October 2024. Also, the first Annual Report on Organ Utilisation, covering all organs, was published in February 2025 <https://www.odt.nhs.uk/statistics-and-reports/>.
4. Please note our current arrangements for staff responsibilities in support of organs and tissues.

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RISK COMMUNICATION TOOLS

5. 2021 saw the successful deployment of the NHSBT Risk Communication Tools. The NHSBT Risk Communication Tools are online personalised calculators, for each organ, that help clinicians communicate risks and benefits of transplantation to patients and aid understanding of statistics presented to them in clinic. They help visualise possible outcomes for patients from the point of listing or point of transplant for deceased donor transplantation.
6. The statistical models for all 5 Risk Communication Tools have been updated and the Risk Communication Tools now reflect these changes as of 3 March 2025. The tool can be accessed via <https://www.odt.nhs.uk/transplantation/tools-policies-and-guidance/risk-communication-tools/>.
7. The lung and kidney tools were also previously hosted by The Winton Centre for Risk and Evidence Communication, on their website. As the statistical models have now been updated and the NHSBT Risk Communication Tools will reflect these changes, please note that the Winton Centre Tools will no longer be accessible.
8. The NHSBT Statistics team are working on further improvements to the Risk Communication Tools for users this year and more updates will follow. We hope these tools continue to inform discussions in the difficult decisions that often arise for patients and clinicians during their journey in transplantation.

PRESENTATIONS

9. A presentation was given at the joint British Transplant Society and NHSBT Annual Congress, on Cardiothoracic Transplantation in the UK. The presentation slides can be found here: <https://www.odt.nhs.uk/statistics-and-reports/slides-and-presentations/>. A similar presentation will be given at the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation Annual Meeting in April 2025.

PUBLICATIONS

10. The Statistics Team contributed to the MELODY (Mass Evaluation of Lateral Flow Immunoassays for the Detection of SARS-CoV-2 Antibody in Immunosuppressed People) Study which was recently published in [The Lancet](#). The research reveals how a simple blood test can predict the severity of COVID-19 infection in immunocompromised patients, paving the way for personalised approaches to vaccination and better protection for those most at risk. The study is the largest of its kind, involving over 28,000 immunocompromised participants who had either received an organ transplant, had blood cancer or a rare autoimmune disease.

APPLICATIONS FOR DATA

11. There has been one new application for national registry data and another previous application is still in progress:

Centre	Applicant	Application date	Study title	Status
Birmingham	Amit Adlakha	12/12/2024	The use of donor organs for cardiothoracic transplantation from drowning victims	In progress
Newcastle	Nicholas Chilvers	10/02/2024	The impact of time from withdrawal of treatment to asystole and ischaemic times on recipient outcomes after DCD heart and lung transplantation	In progress

RECENT AND FUTURE WORK

12. We have been working on updates to the CUSUM monitoring, to incorporate re-transplants into the heart CUSUMs and update the baseline and monitoring periods for both heart and lung.
13. We are continuing to support the Heart and Lung Transformation Programme. This involves sharing data from the UK Transplant Registry and advising on analysis.
14. In close collaboration with members of CTAG-Lung and the lung transplant community we are continuing to develop a proposal for a transplant benefit style patient-based non-urgent lung offering scheme.
15. As well as providing regular monitoring reports for the DCD Heart Oversight Group, there are two publications on DCD heart transplantation in development; one is a 4 year review of activity and outcomes since the national service was implemented, and the other is a summary of the UK DCD heart experience since 2015.
16. We have been working with clinicians in Newcastle on a review of heart-lung transplantation in the UK, under the Blood and Transplant Research Unit (BTRU), looking at historical and present perspectives. The draft manuscript will soon be ready for review by centre representatives.
17. Work is underway on sharing non-identifiable data with the International Registry for Mechanically Assisted Circulatory Support (IMACS). This includes adult patients who received a durable LVAD as reported to the UK MCS Registry.

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