

NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT

CARDIOTHORACIC ADVISORY GROUP

BACK-UP OFFERS

OUTLINE OF ISSUE

1. There are a few scenarios where a back-up recipient might be needed:
 - a. Double lungs are accepted and one lung is later deemed untransplantable on inspection, but the other lung is transplantable.
 - b. The heart-lung block is accepted and one part of it is later deemed untransplantable on inspection.
 - c. The heart and/or lungs are accepted for a sensitised patient but later declined due to positive cross match.
2. If the accepting centre does not have their own back-up recipient either the accepting centre or the Specialist Nurses for Organ Donation (SNODs) can identify if they think any of the above scenarios are likely. The accepting centre may ask the SNOD (or the SNOD may offer) to continue with the offering sequence to identify a back-up.
3. The introduction of Group Offering on 22 June 2017, whereby the non-urgent patient offering was transferred from the SNODs to the ODT Duty Office, highlighted that a formalised process for when and how to identify back-up recipients may be required. This is particularly pertinent since all cardiothoracic organ offering is coming into the ODT Hub imminently.
4. It is not possible to accurately quantify how often a back-up patient might be needed from the offering data stored on the UK Transplant Registry. However, key word searches of the ODT Duty Office offering log for the phrases shown in Appendix I, for donors over the last 5 financial years, suggested that back-up single lung offering was not uncommon: an estimate of 42 instances per year was obtained. However, please note that this is optional reporting and the text is not standardised, so this is likely to be an underestimate. To put this in context, approximately 260 double lungs are initially accepted per year.

POSSIBLE OPTIONS

- (1) If any organs are initially accepted but later turned down at retrieval, the Fast Track scheme is initiated, meaning that it is a “first come first served” process of acceptance of the transplantable organs. This carries a risk that organs may not be used as recipients cannot be found and prepared for surgery at this late stage.
- (2) Only if prompted by the centre accepting (if they feel the risk of later decline is high), the ODT Duty Office will send out a simultaneous Group Offer to all centres to identify a possible back up patient in advance. If this is for a single lung back up, the Group Offer will not state which lung is being offered as that will not be known until time of theatre, but in other scenarios it may be possible to state the actual organ(s) that requires a back-up. In the event of more than one centre wanting to be back-up, centre is chosen by:

- i) Highest in the rota OR
- ii) First come first served

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Appendix I Donors between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2017 where there was a suggestion of back-up heart and/or lung offering taking place, as identified by searching for key phrases in the ODT Duty Office offering log		
Key phrase	Number of donors	Number where a single lung was transplanted
"SINGLE LUNG BACK UP" or "SINGLE LUNG BACK-UP"	209	12
"BACK UP LUNG" or "BACK-UP LUNG"	33	0
"BACK UP FOR THE LUNG" or "BACK-UP FOR THE LUNG"	10	1
"HEART BACK UP" or "HEART BACK-UP"	6	-
"BACK UP HEART" or "BACK-UP HEART"	8	-
"BACK UP FOR THE HEART" or "BACK-UP FOR THE HEART"	6	-
Total number of donors	257	

Appendix II Number of donors where "SINGLE LUNG BACK UP" or "SINGLE LUNG BACK-UP" is mentioned in ODT Duty Office offering log, by SNOD Team and financial year						
SNOD team	Financial year					Total
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	
Eastern	3	2	0	1	1	7
London	1	3	3	2	3	12
Midlands	10	4	9	11	8	42
North West	5	1	7	6	10	29
Northern	3	3	3	8	2	19
Northern Ireland	2	3	2	4	0	11
Scotland	6	4	6	1	4	21
South Central	2	4	3	4	1	14
South East	5	4	3	1	2	15
South Wales	1	0	5	2	0	8
South West	1	0	1	3	2	7
Yorkshire	9	6	2	3	3	23
Rol	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	48	34	45	46	36	209

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