

Scottish Donation and Transplant Group – 4 September 2019

Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics (H&I)

Support for Transplantation in Scotland

1. Staffing

Glasgow H&I: All substantive posts filled

Edinburgh H&I: All substantive posts filled

2. On call rotas

The one in four Consultant/Principal Clinical Scientist rota supporting deceased donor kidney, simultaneous pancreas kidney (SPK), islet and cardiac transplantation in Scotland is maintained.

All senior and laboratory on call staff in both centres can access their own patient data remotely.

3. Quality in Organ Donation (QuOD) project

UK-wide study, ongoing, funded until 2020.

4. Donor typing

A new process for sending deceased donor bloods to labs earlier to reduce reporting time to NHSBT ODT has been implemented. In cases where the potential donor is on the Organ Donor Register or has otherwise expressed a decision to donate, clinical staff at the donor site can now send bloods for HLA typing prior to the SNOD attending the donor hospital site.

Edinburgh: In period Jan-July 2019, 24 donors were HLA typed, with a mean turnaround from sample receipt to reporting to ODT of 3 hours 58 minutes.

Glasgow: In period Jan-July 2019, 40 donors were typed, with a mean turnaround from sample receipt to reporting to ODT of 2 hours 47 minutes.

5. UK NHSBT reviews of allocation and donor characterisation

The H&I labs are still awaiting information on the implementation of changes to the offering scheme for deceased kidneys within the UK in 2019. This is likely to lead to increased offers for highly sensitised patients and consequently an increased need for full prospective crossmatching. Both H&I labs are able to perform crossmatches on peripheral blood which should help maintain low cold ischaemia times.

The NHSBT ODT Donor Characterisation Review for HLA typing and microbiological testing of donors has now moved to an implementation phase. A letter from NHSBT to H&I labs dated 8 May 2019 explains that funding has now

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been identified for NHSBT to commission donor HLA and microbiology testing with a go live date in 2021/22. Working groups are being created to oversee implementation. Dave Turner is the H&I representative on the Donor Characterisation Electronic Results Transfer (DCERT) implementation group. It is currently unclear exactly how this will impact on the services provided by the two H&I labs in Scotland.

Dave Turner

Consultant Clinical Scientist
Lead for H&I/Diagnostic Services
SNBTS

Ann-Margaret Little

Director of Histocompatibility &
Immunogenetics Laboratory
NHS GGC

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Tissue Donation Update

1. Service Update

Work continues for SNBTS Tissue, Cells and Advanced Therapeutics (TCAT) to restart deceased tissue (heart valves and tendons) processing at the Jack Copland Centre. We have now submitted the Preparation Process Dossiers for both heart valves and tendon processing to the HTA and await their review and decision; we are currently working towards a September/October start date for tissue processing, assuming HTA approval.

SNBTS is also currently in discussion with NHSBT re eye retrieval in Scotland. There is the anticipation that SNBTS will be able to take on the responsibility for eye retrieval in the central belt of Scotland on behalf of NHSBT in the near future. Work is currently ongoing with the aim that the service can be commenced in the near future, thus providing a reliable eye retrieval service in Scotland.

In anticipation of Opt out legislation we are also making plans to increase resilience of the tissues team and have recently interviewed for new team members who will be joining us in the near future.

2. Deceased Tissue Donation

Despite deceased tissue processing having been paused, heart valve retrieval has continued uninterrupted due to the life-saving nature of heart valves and the significant shortage of this product in the UK, with such donations being temporarily sent to NHSBT for processing. Tendon retrieval however was paused, and in view of this tissue donor numbers for this financial year are much lower than the actual donation potential. Tendon retrieval by SNBTS will be recommenced in September 2019.

In the first four months (up to July 2019) of this financial year 12 multi-organ donors and three tissue-only donors donated hearts for valves.

3. Pancreatic Islet Programme

The pancreatic islet programme continues to provide a life-saving service to Scottish patients. In the first four months of this financial year (up to July 2019), five pancreata were offered to and accepted by SNBTS. All five were processed, of which three (60%) yielded a successful transplantable product, leading to a transplant on one occasion (latter dependent on recipient characteristics).

Dr Sharon Zahra

Clinical Lead, TCAT, SNBTS

NHS Blood and Transplant

1. Organ Donation and Transplantation 2018/2019

- In this last year there was again a UK record with 1,600 deceased organ donors, however this 1.7% increase was the smallest rise in donor numbers in five years. The increase was achieved despite a 4% drop in eligible donors, with 225 fewer eligible donors overall.
- The decrease in the total number of eligible donors and the subsequent impact on the number of proceeding deceased organ donors, makes it increasingly challenging to maintain the consistent year on year increases in donor numbers.
- The number of deceased organ donor transplants did not rise in correlation with the number of donors. There was a 2% decrease in the number of transplants, with 3,951 taking place in comparison to 4,038 in 2017/18 and a 1% increase in numbers on the Transplant Waiting List. The number of living donors fell by 3% to 1,039.
- The Board has acknowledged that NHSBT, whilst not directly accountable for some areas of donation and transplantation, does have an important leadership role in influencing behaviours.

2. UK Organ Donation and Transplantation beyond 2020

The development of the ten-year Organ Donation & Transplantation Strategy continues and involves 3 steps:

- Plan: set up governance, approach and scope, map stakeholders and identify events, lay out how the data will be gathered, analysed and shared
- Engage: deliver stakeholder workshops, based around key strategic questions.
- Consult: feedback on emerging themes, strategy and approaches, agree oversight of delivery and understand the capabilities and capacity required (including within ODT), and build towards formal approvals / endorsements.

We are currently in the planning phase with engagement via regional stakeholder workshops scheduled for August-October.

3. ODT Hub Programme

- The last three months have seen the ODT Hub Programme deliver the digital Interactive Matching Run (organ offering tool) into live use in Hub Operations. This makes offering safer and simpler by removing paper from the process and minimizing the risk of human error, initially for 4 of the 6 organ groups.
- The new Kidney and Pancreas Offering Schemes are now in the final stages of testing and are on-track for launch on 3rd September. Development has commenced on the final major objective for the year, which is to bring the digital Interactive Matching Run into use for the remaining two organ groups (Kidney and Pancreas).
- The programme remains on course to deliver all items within the overall budget and timeframe and is reporting 'Green'.

Keith Rigg
Non-Executive Director
NHSBT

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Human Tissue Authority

Human Tissue Authority (HTA) Transplant Advisory Group -

The HTA's Transplant Advisory Group meets twice yearly. The last meeting was on 8 May 2019 and will meet again on 23 October 2019.

Living Donation

- We are continuing with our project looking at the sustainability of the Independent Assessor (IA) framework across the UK. This is to try to strengthen some areas such as training and information we provide about the role.
- Aims of the project are broadly to ensure the system is robust and future proofed as far as possible and to look at the retention of IAs with clear sight of accountability and governance.
- In addition, a training day for new Independent Assessors will be held on 17 September 2019, with at least one delegate from Scotland attending. The next training day will be 7 April 2020, which has been communicated to all transplant centres and published on the HTA website.

Deceased Donation

Organ Donation (Deemed Consent) Act 2019

- The Act places a duty on the HTA to provide guidance about how deemed consent in England will work in practice, including the information a person in a qualifying relationship would need to provide as evidence that the deceased person would not have agreed to their organs being donated.
- A 12 week consultation on Code of Practice F, aimed primarily at professionals, is open. The consultation was launched on 4 July 2019 and ends on 26 September 2019. The Code has been amended to reflect the new Act. It will then require Parliamentary approval before publication.
- We are also in the process of making minor amends to the Code of Practice in Wales to reflect changes in England and Scotland.

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Living Donation Scotland: Project Update

1. Timely Transplantation

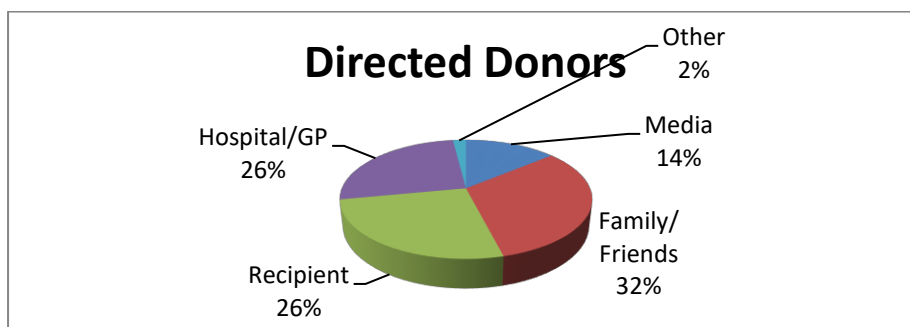
Work continues to capture transplant decision making for all patients in Scotland approaching end stage kidney disease. A total of 960 patients were identified in the June survey (eGFR<15, < 80 years). Initial results reflect the varied incidence of patient numbers attending these clinics. These results are to be presented at the Scottish Renal Transplant meeting and an abstract submitted for the Scottish Renal Association.

2. Living kidney donation guide for healthcare professionals in Scotland:

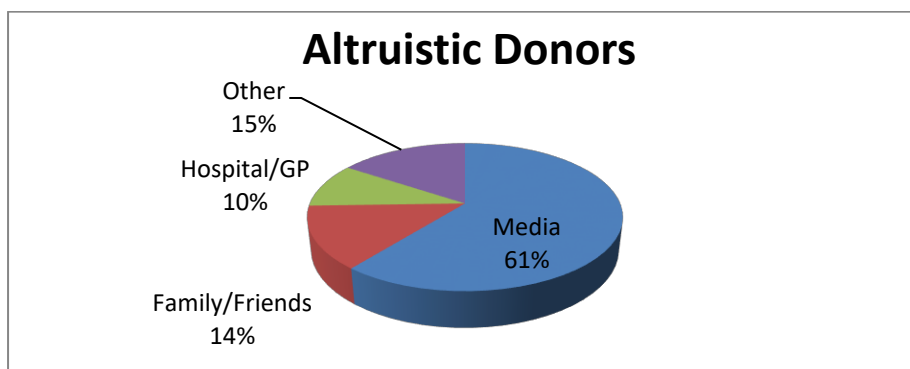
Link: [Living Kidney Donation and Transplantation Information Pack for Healthcare Professionals in Scotland](#). Printed copies now available.

3. Where do donors hear about living donation?

In preparation for the next strategy, we reviewed 100 living donors (50 direct/50 altruistic) in the East of Scotland to identify where they had heard about living donation. Results confirmed that altruistic donation is dependent on multi-media publicity:



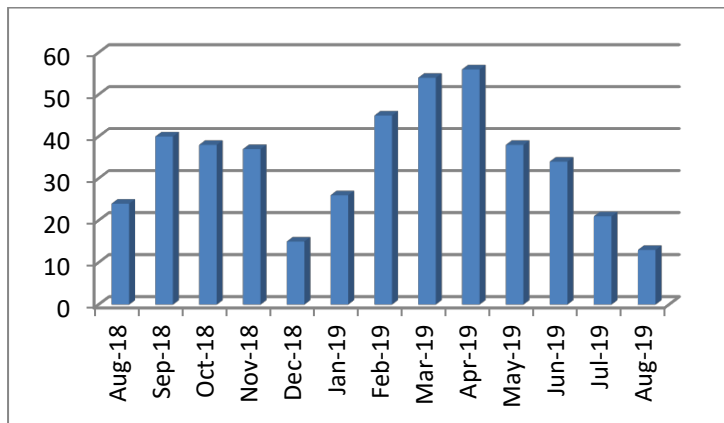
Results also showed that 84% of altruistic donors have been blood donors, compared with 36% of directed donors.



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Healthcheck Questionnaire Returns August 18- August 19

(Glasgow & Edinburgh Tx Units)



Peak healthcheck questionnaire returns in March/April 19 may reflect the positive publicity around the living donor awareness week

Jen Lumsdaine

Living Donor Transplant Co-ordinator
Living Donation Scotland Project